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UFOs: A HISTORY

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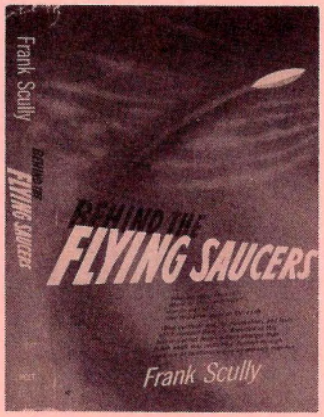

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UFO'S: A HISTORY

1950

AUGUST - DECEMBER

by

LOREN E. GROSS

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UFO'S: A HISTORY

1950: AUGUST - DECEMBER

The heavens go crazy.

August 2nd a mysterious cloud judged to be 15,000 feet high moved against the wind while radiating green, red, orange, and blue hues. It swept over California headed north. A week later a soundless explosion of green light lit up the sky over Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego and Riverside Counties, followed by a brilliant white glare lasting a minute and a half. Farther north, an area extending from Salem, Oregon to Seattle, Washington was similarly illuminated.

The local OSI unit in New Mexico was still plenty concerned by aerial phenomena. Proof is a request made by the 17th District OSI Office in a letter dated August 7th addressed to a California unit, the 19th District OSI at Fairfield-Suisun Air Force Base, Fairfield:

> "Reference is made to article which appeared in the 'Albuquerque Journal' on 3 August 1950. This article stated that a varied-colored cloud (green, blue, etc.), floating against the wind, was observed by several hundred people in and around San Rafael, California.
>
> "The article further stated that officials at Hamilton Air Force Base, California were investigating. In the event any inquiry is conducted by your office, it is requested that the 17th OSI District receive a copy of your report."[1]

Nothing came of an inquiry. The 19th OSI unit accepted a Weather Bureau guess that the cloud formation must have been: "...an unusual grouping of moisture particles in the sky which gave vivid prismatic effects."[2]

"Unidentified flying object off starboard bow!"

By August the UFO wave of 1950 had moved north into Canada in North America and countries like France and England in Europe. This also included the North Atlantic. The ship "MARCALA" was in those waters during the first part of August and had an experience so odd it came to the attention of American Intelligence. The official report on the incident quotes three of the ship's crew:

> "On 4 Aug 50 at 10 a.m. my ship, while on a heading of 245 degrees true, with a smooth sea and clear weather, visibility 14 miles, barometer reading

30.03, was underway from Walton, Nova Scotia, to an East Coast U.S. port. I was in the chart room just aft the bridge when Third Mate, who was at mid-bridge checking the compass, shouted that there was a flying object off the starboard bow. I immediately ascended the conning tower and by this time the object was on our starboard beam. It was travelling on a reciprocal course to ours about 50 or 100 feet above the water at an estimated speed of over 25 mph. From the conning tower I observed it with my binoculars for a period of approximately a minute and a half when it disappeared into the horizon in a northeasterly direction. I would estimate that the closest it approached my ship was one thousand feet and it was an ovular, cylindrical shaped object the like of which I have never seen before. The object was quite small and I would judge that its diameter was approximately 10 feet. It had depth but to what extent I was unable to observe. The object made no noise, and as it passed abeam our ship, it appeared to pick up considerable speed. It was not flying smoothly but impressed me as having a churning or a rotary motion. It had a shiny aluminum color and sparkled in the sunlight."[3]

The above account was given by the ship's Master, a citizen of Denmark. The next account was made by the Chief Mate, a citizen of the Netherlands:

"I was on the main deck, port side, just forward of the bridge when the Third Mate shouted there was an object on our starboard bow. I looked off to the starboard and saw an object of elliptic shape looking like half an egg cut lengthwise traveling at a great rate of speed on a course reciprocal to our own. I immediately ran to the stern, port side, and with my glasses was able to observe the object disappearing into the horizon. From the time I was first alerted to its presence until it disappeared from sight, 15 seconds elapsed. I believe that it was traveling at a tremendous rate of speed, possibly faster than 500 m.p.h. During the time I saw it, it was approximately 70 feet off the water and I judge it was approximately 10 miles away. I clearly saw its shadow on the water. I last observed it off the starboard quarter and it seemed to be increasing its speed and ascending. It had an elliptic shape and I could clearly see that it had three dimensions. It wobbled in the air, made no noise, and was a metallic white in color. The length was approximately six times the breadth and its belly had a depth of possibly 5 feet."[4]

The third witness was an Englishman, the Third Mate on the "MARCALA." He told interrogators:

> "At 10:00 a.m. on 4 Aug 50 as I was checking the compass at mid-bridge through a bridge porthole, I observed a flying object off the starboard bow. I immediately shouted to the Captain, who was in the chart room, and the Chief Mate, who was below on the port deck, of my observation and went out on the flying bridge myself. The object was approximately 70 feet above the horizon at a distance of 12 miles. It came toward us, then ran on a course reciprocal to ours and turned off into the horizon in the northeast. I clearly saw its shadow on the water. My impression of the object was that it was elliptical, not unlike a Japanese diamond box kite in shape. I have no idea of its size but the length was about six times the breadth and it had a depth of from two to five feet. It made no noise and was traveling at a tremendous rate of speed. As it traveled through the air, it made a spinning or wobbly motion. After it disappeared in the horizon, I saw it reappear several seconds later, ascending at an even faster speed then when I first observed it. I have no idea what this was, I never saw anything comparable to it before, and it was one of the most frightening experiences I have ever mad. I roughly estimate that the object traveled 28 miles during the 15 seconds I had it under observation."[5]

U.S. Air Force Intelligence officers added this note:

> "All three men were quite evidently very much upset by the sighting. Aside from the discrepancies, it was quite evident to the Intelligence Officers who interviewed these men that they had certainly seen some very unusual object which they could not identify but was just as certainly not any conventional type of aircraft."[6]

The same day, August 4th, about 10:30 a.m., five people standing outside the Arkansas Power & Light Company in Little Rock, Arkansas, sighted a round, disc-shaped object brilliant by reflection from the sun. The UFO was heading northeast. It tilted slightly to the east and then continued out of sight.[7]

The majority of UFO reports, however, continued to come in from areas more to the north.

The U.S. Army submitted a newspaper clipping to the Air Force. Names were deleted:

> "A 'flying disc' traveling 'very high and very fast,' was reported over Riverdale [Illinois] yesterday [August 6th].

"--- (deleted) 32, of --- (deleted) in the suburb, said he heard what sounded like an airplane and then spotted a flat circular object passing over his house.

"He said it was too round to be an airplane and was too fast to be a balloon."[8]

An official Intelligence report in Air Force files states:

"On 7 August 1950, Lt. --- (deleted) advised that while he was over Sante Fe, New Mexico, at approximately 30,000 feet, he observed what he thought to be a C-47 transport type aircraft flying at approximately 20,000 feet. --- (deleted) advised that he then started to descend following the object and that although he was indicating over 620 miles per hour he was unable to follow the object which disappeared in the distance."[9]

The object was dark in color and, although it was in view for about five minutes, the pilot could not see what shape it was since he never got within 15 miles.

"He forgot about the laundry."

Those people who were trying to gain an understanding of what was happening no doubt found news service humor and/or brevity maddening. An August 11th teletype message went:

"J.W. ADAMSON OF TWIN FALLS, IDAHO, IS A GOOD CARPENTER, A GOOD HUSBAND, AND A MAN OF GOOD JUDGMENT.

"HIS WIFE SWEARS HE'S RELIABLE. SO WHEN SHE HEARD THUNDER OUTSIDE THEIR HOME SHE SENT HER HUSBAND TO CHECK ON THE CLOTHES LINE TO SEE IF THE LAUNDRY WAS DRY ENOUGH TO BE TAKEN INSIDE.

"HE CAME BACK IN A FEW MINUTES WITH A STORY ABOUT HAVING SEEN A FLYING CUBE THE SIZE OF A HOUSE. HE FORGOT ABOUT THE LAUNDRY. MRS. ADAMSON SENT HIM OUT AGAIN. AND AGAIN HE RETURNED. HE SAID HE SAW 25 FLYING SAUCERS. NOT A WORD ABOUT THE CLOTHES. ONCE MORE MRS. ADAMSON SENT HIM OUT. WHEN HE CAME BACK HE TOLD HER ABOUT 25 MORE FLYING SAUCERS. ALL THIS--THE 50 FLYING SAUCERS AND THE FLYING CUBE--ALL WITHIN 15 MINUTES. HIS GROWN DAUGHTER SAID SHE SAW THEM TOO.

"BUT MRS. ADAMSON DIDN'T HAVE HER GLASSES AND SHE DIDN'T SEE A THING AND SHE NEVER DID FIND OUT ABOUT HER CLOTHES UNTIL SHE CHECKED THEM HERSELF."[10]

An episode at Yuma, Arizona, August 12th had dozens of witnesses but unhappily no one had a camera ready. On that day a disc-shaped object glowing along its outer edge zoomed to a position directly over Main street and then shot straight

up until a layer of clouds obscured it.[11] Farther north, city firemen at Portland, Oregon reported a UFO the same afternoon.

Europe.

In western France early in August residents of La Rocke-sur-Yon observed a luminous sphere that lunged about the sky to no apparent purpose before racing away. Nearer the ground, a Dr. Desmas was driving near La Rocke-sur-Yon that night when he noticed a red glow in some vegetation just off the road to his right giving the impression the underbrush was aflame. Continuing down the highway, Dr. Desmas' eye then caught sight of another "fire" on the left. This was too much to ignore, so the doctor braked to a stop. As he did so, a "ball of fire" crossed the road, turned, rose a little, and then paused. While it was motionless, Dr. Desmas took in the sight which appeared to be a brightly glowing "lens-shaped" thing that trailed a short, but vivid wake. Shortly the UFO began to move. Racing about, the UFO put on an incredible demonstration of flying. The maneuvers were breathtaking. Citizens in the area were awake and they reported similar activity in the sky.[12] Nantes, France was the locale for another UFO sighting on August 14th.[13]

The London Times started to weaken in its opposition to the UFO "nonsense" by publishing a story filed by one of its own correspondents stationed in Switzerland:

> "Zermatt August 13. About a dozen persons living in the mountains above Faido have reported that on Thursday night they saw what they described as 'flying saucers' which left a luminous wake in the sky. The 'saucers' had a gyratory movement which, they say, was accompanied by a noise resembling organ music."[14]

Behind the Iron Curtain, UFO information suffered a news eclipse, but surely, if there were such things as flying saucers they wouldn't recognize political borders. Rumors, an occasional report from private sources, and denunciations of UFO hysteria in the state controlled press, were evidence that the Reds were having their own "UFO problem." Only after much persistence by interested parties in the West, assisted by a few concerned Soviet scientists, did some UFO reports from that part of the world reach researchers in the Free World. By a process too complicated to relate here, we have the following report drawn up by a Russian airman engaged in Artic research and who was based at the Russian community of Nizhne Kresty in the Kolymsk region. It seems that this airman, navigator V. I. Akkurator, sent a communication to Y. F. Loginov, Soviet Minister of Civil Aviation, which stated that in August 1950, a mysterious disc-like object had appeared over Nizhne Kresty three days straight. The thing looked like a small moon and caused much consternation among the villagers and Soviet airmen. It was known that the Americans were sending huge camera-equipped

balloons over Russian territory on spy missions at the time (later replaced by U-2 aircraft), but this thing had no similarity to a balloon in either its movements or coloration. The disc came into view at 15:30 hours and left the area at 17:30 hours. On instructions from Moscow the object was challenged by interceptor aircraft, but he UFO did not appear appreciably larger when approached by high flying warplanes which indicated extreme altitude. The UFO had a pearl-colored hue, and as to structure, no protruberances were visible although there seemed to be a "pulsating" around its edges. The description could fit that of a balloon except for the UFO's regular appearances over the city and the fact that the object finally moved away rapidly, on an upward angle, when aircraft tried to climb to its altitude.[15]

To a student of the UFO problem the Russian case takes on added interest when it is compared to American reports of big UFO's lurking above American cities, especially the "small moon" that made repeated appearances over Cincinnati in late 1949 and early 1950.

The Montana movies.

As the UFO storm front crept to more northern latitudes, it is perhaps significant that the fascinating Montana film fits a northerly shift pattern.

At Great Falls, Montana, a manager of a local baseball team arrived at the field to check wind direction prior to a ballgame. This was about 11:30 a.m. Looking to the northwest, in the direction of Anaconda Copper Company located on the outskirts of Great Falls, the manager noticed a couple of "stationary" bright points of light. Almost at once the witness decided the lights were extraordinary so he rushed to where he had parked his car to get his movie camera. On the way he shouted to his secretary nearby, directing her attention to the lights in the sky. The "lights" were now moving in a curved trajectory, passing from right to left, some 3 to 4 miles away. Grabbing his Revere, turret-type, 16mm movie camera and setting the focus at F 22/infinity, he shot some 30 seconds of film before the two objects disappeared in the southwest. After having the film developed, the witness showed the movie to various acquaintances, even giving talks to local service clubs where the photographic record of the UFO's was explained.[16]

The film did not come to the attention of the Air Force until October, although Mr. Mariana saw something that sure fits the bill as a "flying saucer." In a later account made to authorities, Mr. Mariana gave the following description:

"a. Of a bright clear aluminum surface.
b. Disc-shaped--apparently had depth.
c. Object appeared to be of metal material.
d. Fifty feet in diameter and three feet thick."[17]

August 17th at Nanaimo, British Columbia, a UFO report was made to British UP by an assistant manager of an airport.

Something over Cyprus.

USAF officers at Nicosia Airfield, Cyprus, sighted a bright, round object speeding over that Mediterranean region. A MATS liaison officer gave this account:

> "At 1130Z, 20 August 1950, while out on the ramp at Nicosia Airfield, I overheard an aircraft flying overhead and in looking up to spot it, I saw a small round or elliptical bright object moving from a point directly overhead towards the west; its course or flight path passed through the arc of the sun which at that time was about (15) degrees below the Zenith; the brilliancy of the object in flight did not change even while reflected against the sun as it disappeared from sight in the distance at about thirty (30) degrees about the horizon."[18]

A Colonel confirmed the forementioned story. He said:

> "...while walking from the MATS Detachment Office, Nicosia Airfield, to my parked C-47 aircraft, preparatory to taking off to Ankara, Turkey, I looked aloft to try to sight an aircraft whose sound indicated it was somewhere overhead.
>
> "While looking for the aircraft, a small, round, bright object suddenly came into view, traveling at a terrific speed, appearing to be quite high, and moving toward the west. It disappeared from view when it reached a point approximately 30 to 35 degrees above the horizon. The weather at the time of this observation was clear, with brilliant sunshine, and visibility at least fifty miles. The object remained in my view for about 15 to 20 seconds. There appeared to be no sound emanating from the unidentified bright object. The sound from the conventional aircraft moved away toward the southeast."[19]

Enigma at Echterdingen.

A Corporal George P. Scarlett was engaged in observing a pilot balloon run at a theodolite stand August 21st at Echterdingen Army Air Field at Stuttgart, Germany. While checking on the balloon another object entered his field of vision. Fascinated Corporal Scarlett followed this strange object with the theodolite. He later told intelligence officers:

> "The object was moving in a southerly direction, and I followed it with little difficulty for one minute. Then it made an abrupt change

in direction towards the west-south-west and approached the sun at evidently a high rate of speed. That the speed was high was shown by the increase in size of the object. It increased from about 15 minutes to about 50 minutes in diameter, or about 20 percent of the field of vision of the theodolite which is two degrees. Becoming rapidly more difficult to follow, the object was finally lost in the sun field.

"When first seen, the object was small, oval, and white in color. As it became closer and larger, it seemed a grayish white color with several dark lines or shadows on its surface. The object, although clearly visible, seemed to have a rather indistinct outline."20

Eight residents of Bermuda said they spotted a strange unidentified flying object over the south end of the island on August 22nd. Authorities said a weather balloon was responsible but that did not end the mysterious doings in the Bermuda region. A B-29 of the 373rd Reconnaissance Squadron, (VIR) Weather, based at Bermuda was on a special weather mission out in the Atlantic when the plane's radar picked a strange target:

"...a distinct and bright target appeared on the radar scope at 0004Z. The target appeared to be traveling on the same heading and at the same speed as the B-29, at approximately 1,000 feet below, 10 degrees to the left of 12 o'clock, and 1½ miles in front. S/Sgt. Shaffer immediately informed the pilot of the contact. The pilot in turn instructed all crew members to be alerted for a possible visual observation of the object.

"While the B-29 was held at a constant speed and altitude, the object remained in the same relative position for several minutes before gradually seeming to reduce its speed until it was overtaken and passed by the B-29. The radar scope showed the object to be approximately ¼ mile off the left wing when passed. Once passed, the unidentified object seemed to assume a position in-trail of the B-29 for an approximate 5 minute period.

"In the same gradual manner that the object had reduced speed and dropped behind, it then increased its speed sufficiently to overtake the B-29, passing to the right but keeping within a ¼ mile radius. After drawing slightly ahead of the weather reconnaissance aircraft, the unidentified object seemed to begin a gradual turn to the right and then accelerated rapidly. At this time, Lt. Stockton made a 20 degree turn to his left to determine whether the target would follow. The target did not follow the weather aircraft but continued in its gradual turn to the right

until it disappeared from the scope at 0024Z at a position of 30 degrees 15 minutes north and 67 degrees 12 minutes west. When last observed on the scope, the unidentified object was traveling at an estimated speed of 400 knots."[21]

Project TWINKLE.

A scheme to obtain information about UFO's using instrumentation, which was assigned the codename, TWINKLE, started operations at Vanghn, New Mexico on August 23, 1950. It was set up by the Department of the Air Force with the assistance of Land-Air, Inc.[22]

Dr. Anthony O. Mirarchi, of the Air Force's Atmospheric Composition Bureau of the Geophysical Division, was in charge of Project TWINKLE's cinetheodolites and he was very curious about the unusual targets he was supposed to film. At the outset he assumed that the UFO's being reported were American experimental devices and that the TWINKLE effort was merely just a test of region's security. Months later Dr. Mirarchi would change his mind.

A "summary" for the FBI.

Of the number of "summaries" detailing aerial phenomena seen in the skies of New Mexico, the paper prepared by A. H. Belmont for D. M. Ladd of the FBI on August 23, 1950 is one of the most interesting, particularly that part of it that classified the types of phenomena being observed. In the beginning, the winter of 1948, only "green flares" and "fireballs" were listed, but in time "saucer-like" configurations were mentioned as "identified types." Mr. Belmont's 1950 list was as follows:

"1. Green fireballs, objects moving at high speed in shapes resembling half moons, circles and discs emitting green light.

"2. Discs, round flat shaped objects or phenomena moving at fast velocity and emitting a brilliant white light or reflected light.

"3. Meteors, aerial phenomena resembling meteoric material moving at high velocity and varying in color.

"The above phenomena have been reported to vary in color from brilliant white to amber, red, and green."[23]

Another northern location.

A shiny white spherical object about 20 feet in diameter sped over Brockton, Massachusetts, on August 27th. It was reported by a civilian who swore the thing moved against the wind. The military explained the object as a balloon anyway.[24]

Major General Cabell.

According to public statements by the Air Force there was no UFO investigative activity during this period and we are led to believe that the Air Force saw no value in collecting and examining reports of "flying saucers." In Air Force records there are examples of reports still being forwarded to Dayton or the Pentagon, but no indication of Intelligence experts paying them much heed.

Perhaps the key man in the Pentagon, or at least the most obvious key man, was the director of Air Force Intelligence, Major General C. P. Cabell. General Cabell would play an intriguing role in UFO history during the early 1950's so it might be of interest to examine some correspondence between the General and a witness to a UFO event.

The night of August 23, 1950 a man and his wife observed a strange light maneuver in the dark sky over the city of Philadelphia. Not a first class UFO sighting by any measure, the incident was nonetheless mystifying enough to prompt the witness to write the Air Force about the occurrence. The witness went right to the top with his report by writing a letter to the head man:

> "You [General Cabell] may remember me from the last days of World War II, when I was Chief of Stat. Control under General Chauncy, and you were with General Arnold. My brother, Philip E. Barringer, of Secretary Johnson's office, has suggested that I write you and give you the details of an odd occurrence which I saw in the sky..."[25]

General Cabell replied to the letter writer, Colonel D. Moreau Barringer in a polite manner that adhered to official policy:

> "I am pleased to hear from you again and appreciate your concern as evidenced in your letter of 30 August 1950, for items which are of continuing interest to the Air Force.
>
> "It has been and still is our policy not to ignore any information which may have potential value to the defense of the United States. The information which you have submitted will be examined by our experts at Air Material Command for such action as may be indicated by the details."[26]

What was not evident in the General's answer was pressure to change the Air Force's policy. This direct approach to the General personally gives some indication just how concern over the sky mystery was mounting.

It was the usual practice to inform persons making a UFO report that their information was received and that the Air Force appreciated the witness' interest in the matter, adding that there was no proof UFO's were anything other than conventional phenomena. In this case, however, General Cabell promised that the material would be "examined," and Air Force files contain a letter that requests definite action.

Colonel H. J. Kieling, Executive, Directorate of Intelligence, Headquarters, USAF, Washington 25, D.C., wrote a letter to the Commanding General, Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, which said:

> "Copies of correspondence between the Director of Intelligence and Colonel D. Moreau Barringer, regarding an incident reported from the Philadelphia area, are enclosed for analysis by your Headquarters in accordance with responsibilities outlined for Project 10073 [GRUDGE]."[27]

Exchanges that were confidential prove that the "powers that be" were alarmed. A bit of information, unfortunately only a snippet, tells us that General Cabell's office had notified Hoover's FBI in August 1950, that reports of flying discs, green fireballs, and strange meteors were causing the Air Force sleepless nights.[28]

"Spies over Los Alamos?"

On two successive days, 30 and 31 August, 1950, strange objects, as official documents put it, of an "undisclosed nature" were observed in the sky over Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. The official report from Headquarters, 2754th Experimental Wing, stated that on August 30th:

> "B-50 aircraft for mission of Missile MI-776, Bell Aircraft Corporation, was airborne and while employees of this company were scanning the sky for aircraft, two unexplainable objects were sighted in vicinity of the aircraft. The objects appeared at approximately 1045 hours and were visible for approximately 30 minutes, and seemed to follow the aircraft on both the dry run and the hot run, prior to release of the missile. Observers' stories differed to a degree and some observers saw only one object. At least eight responsible civilians and one Master Sergeant observed the phenomena."[29]

What followed were six characteristics of the UFO's as perceived, one has to admit, by some fairly good witnesses. And one might be reminded that untrained observers were making the same kind of report, so we should ask ourselves if everyone was seeing the same thing.

The official Holloman document went on to say:

> "The following points were noted by observers:
>
> (1) Very fast rate of speed for short distances.
> (2) Strong glare at all times that was not reflected from sun.

(3) Left no vapor trails, seemed to hover, make maneuvers and then accelerate rapidly.
(4) Made square abrupt turns, relative size changed sufficiently to determine ascent and descent, shape changed from round to elliptical.
(5) The two objects retained their relative position to one another.
(6) Appeared to be approximately ten times faster than B-50 aircraft and above aircraft."[30]

The document then tells what happened the next day:

"Instrumentation facilities were set up this date [August 31st] and pictures were taken when phenomena appeared sporadically between hours of 1000 and 1300. The object appeared several times during this period, traveling at very high rates of speed, appearing from several different directions. F-86 aircraft from 93rd Fighter Group, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, were requested and made a four-plane reconnaissance in the local area for approximately one hour; however, the pilots observed no unusual aerial phenomena. The colored photo-theodolite film was immediately airmailed to Houston Plant, Los Angeles, California, for processing.... A final report will be forwarded to your office upon completion. Observers at phototheodolite stations noted the following points:

"(1) Object had definite shape, including depth.
(2) Disappeared when observer took eye off to read angle.
(3) No smoke or fire.
(4) Object seemed to rock or oscillate.
(5) Edges of object were not sharp or distinct."[31]

The film was rushed to the Holloman Air Force Base Data Reduction Unit where it was analyzed in an effort to determine correlations that could establish a triangulation. Unfortunately, the UFO's had traversed the sky at too high a speed.[32, 33]

"Los Alamos Bird Watchers Association."

With a chance that repeated visits by UFO's might be counted on, a group of scientists at Los Alamos, New Mexico, established what they called the "Los Alamos Bird Watchers Association," a special monitoring of cosmic ray counters to determine if there was any correlation between radiation and UFO over-flights. This effort was similar to tests conducted earlier at Oak Ridge, Tennessee and Mt. Palomar, California.[34]

September.

What happened?

Headquarters, Alaskan Air Command, alerted Washington about a phenomenon so strange that the eskimos who witnessed it became terrorized. Extracts from the local Alaskan press were transmitted to the Director of Special Investigations, USAF, at the Pentagon:

> "Nunivak Island's mystery 'pillar of flame' seen early this month shooting out of the Bering Sea less than 400 miles from Soviet Siberia terrorized natives in the village of McKorryuk the Anchorage News was informed today in an exclusive interview with one of the men who saw the flame.
>
> "George Williams, 28-year-old part native youth, said McKorryuk villagers were startled by the weird fire about 7:30 the night of September 1. McKorryuk is on the north coast of Nunivak.
>
> "Williams said the entire village watched in terror as flame lit up the ocean then began to move toward Siberia.
>
> "'The strange fire first appeared near the horizon. It looked like a ball of fire of deep red color--and it looked to be hundreds of feet in height,' Williams said.
>
> "'The huge red ball of fire slowly faded out. Then suddenly another flaming red circle appeared above it. This also faded out slowly. The whole thing repeated itself about three times in the space of about five minutes.'
>
> "'During that time the deep red glare took on an oval shape. The strange flame then appeared to be moving northward toward Siberia and finally disappeared behind clouds and was seen no more.'
>
> "Williams said natives were disposed to give the vision a superstitious explanation."[35]

Furthermore:

> "Military authorities at Fort Richardson were at a loss to explain the mysterious apparition.
>
> "No local planes or ships were overdue at Nunivak and a check by Army and Air Force authorities at Fort Richardson may be made into the matter."[36]

Saucers over Spokane.

Headquarters, 57th Air Division, forwarded a letter to Wright Field with the following enclosure:

> "Major Gardinier was relaxing in the back yard of his home in the extreme corner of the city of Spokane [Washington], when he noticed three strange objects appearing out of the NW.

His first impression was that they were extra large pieces of cardboard or wrapping paper tumbling about in an oversize 'dust devil,' about 2,000 feet above the terrain. Continued observation, however, seemed to indicate that the objects were held aloft by a force other than air currents. They reacted in a manner indicating motive power of their own. All three objects acted independently and highly erratically. For example, one object would move up while another would move down and the third sideways.

"After watching the objects for two or three minutes, Major Gardinier called to his wife to bring a monocular (6 x 23) from the house. When Mrs. Gardinier returned with the glass only one of the objects could be seen, the other two having departed in the direction of Fairchild Air Force Base."[37]

The observer was a Major Russell J. Gardinier who witnessed the forementioned phenomenon on Monday, September 3, 1950, at 1400 hours.

The same report goes on to state:

"Both Mrs. Gardinier and a neighbor, Mrs. Lowell Allen, observed the third object as it climbed and disappeared toward FAFB. Major Gardinier described the objects as rather flat, pancake-shaped, 20 to 30 feet across, 2 to 6 feet in depth. When first sighted they appeared a khaki tan in color but through the monocular appeared a metallic bronze. Observation was difficult because the objects were constantly quivering and oscillating in the air. They were capable of abrupt changes of direction and speed, yet could also hang motionless in the air except for the quivering motion. No sounds were heard. The weather was CAVU. Neither Mrs. Gardinier nor the neighbor could identify the objects. No dust or other debris was associated with them and no trail, smoke or flame could be seen. They appeared from the NW 'as though following the course of the Spokane River' until they were abreast of the NW corner of the city of Spokane, orbiting there for approximately five minutes and then proceeding SW almost directly toward FAFB. All three objects appeared to have a high rate of speed, difficult to estimate because of lack of reference as to size and distance away. No further observations were reported."[38]

The 57th Air Division experts ruled out any reasonable explanation for Major Gardinier's sighting. They were so impressed they brushed aside Air Force regulations that discouraged the forwarding of UFO reports and boldly requested instructions as to proper reporting procedure if any more such observations were made!

Headquarters for the Fifteenth Air Force at March AFB, California, replied that: "...any information of a potential intelligence value will be reported in accordance with Air Force Regulation 220-15 where no established report and procedure is involved."[39]

Cabell capitulates.

Major General C. P. Cabell, Director of Intelligence, USAF, on September 8th, authorized a document to be sent to all Commands that was titled: "Reporting of Unconventional Aircraft." The document defined what was meant by "unconventional". Simply put, what the General was doing was admitting that there really could be some very strange flying craft in the skies of the United States and it was proper to forward such information to higher headquarters. The lead paragraph of the document went:

> "The United States Air Force has a continuing requirement for the reporting and technical analysis of observations of unconventional aircraft which might indicate an advance in technological progress of a foreign power. An unconventional aircraft, within the meaning of this directive, is defined as any aircraft or airborne object which by performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features, does not conform to any presently known aircraft type. It is desired that no publicity be given this reporting or analysis activity."[40]

The reader should take note of that last sentence.

"Shoot to kill?"

In September, Project TWINKLE was visited by an official from the Air Force's Cambridge Research Laboratory who examined prints taken from film exposed by the project's cinetheodolites. Official files do not indicate the official's reaction to the images on the prints, but we do get the impression that at least Project TWINKLE personnel were persuaded that something odd was going on, particularly since UFO's made appearances during missile tests.

Concern over the possibility that "something" was spying on missile launches prompted Col. Boone and Lt. Albert of Project TWINKLE to seek a meeting with officers commanding Holloman AFB's interceptor fighter squadron, the unit responsible for the air defense of the area. Capt. Porter, the Squadron Adjutant, and Capt. Welson, the Squadron Operations Officer, met with TWINKLE personnel and agreed that if some coordination with fighter operations could be effected, then it would mean the obtaining of visual and/or photographic data of better quality. If one doubts their determination, he has only to note the request, formally submitted, that went: "Will Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories initiate correspondence to see if it is feasible for F-86 aircraft to shoot at phenomena with live ammunition?"[41]

By a curious coincidence, things were aboil in the public sector at the same time as General Cabell's change of heart.

"The Thing," from another world.

The Air Force saw a threat to its ascendancy over the public's imagination in the writings of Donald Keyhoe, which is understandable, but the military minds in the Pentagon also recoiled in fear from the "menace" of the activities of the fantasy factories of southern California.

Toward the latter part of 1950 a cinematic masterpiece was in the making. Hollywood's Howard Hawks had arrived in Alaska with a script loosely adapted from a John Campbell novel and was roaming around the Fort Richardson area looking for possible locations to shoot scenes for his science fiction thriller. Hawks sought military cooperation, but what the Hollywood producer was planning disturbed the High Command. Not only was Hawks' movie to be about a flying saucer from outer space, but it would feature an alien monster on a rampage. The Pentagon wired the Fort Richardson Commanding Officer the following message:

> "Reference is made to proposed Winchester Pictures Corporation proposed motion picture to be entitled 'The Thing.' It is understood you have been approached to extend cooperation to the producer and writers as pertains to filming location and to endorsement of the film. The Air Force has maintained for a considerable period of time that the 'flying saucer' is a myth and it is our policy not to participate in any proposal that will perpetuate his hoax. Therefore, the Air Force has refused cooperation on this production. Further, the Air Force is objecting to any mentioning or pictorial display of Air Force personnel or equipment in the film. In view of the above, it is requested that you consider disapproving their request to you for cooperation."[42]

The Thing was completed without Air Force cooperation but that did not stop the film from attaining the stature of a classic. For terror and tension this adaptation for the screen of a novel by John Campbell has few equals. The original title for the story is apt for summing up the year 1950 UFO-wise: "Who Goes There?" In the film the closing scene fades with the hero making a pitch to the theater audience: "Watch the skies!"

Meanwhile, on September 8th, the day General Cabell issued an official directive that liberalized Air Force Intelligence's attitude toward UFO reports, there was news of beings from space and it did not concern a movie script.

"Behind the flying saucers."

Frank Scully's book about the so-called "little men from Venus," Behind the Flying Saucers, was announced by the publisher, Henry Holt of New York. Holt told the United Press Scully's saucer book was justified: "...because we believe it to be exciting, timely and a straightforward interpretation of one of the strangest phenomena of modern times."[43] United Press saw through the hype and commented: "Others take a lighter view. They are prone to remember that Scully is a humorist."[44]

For the Air Force the book turned out to be no laughing matter.

Many people who purchased Scully's book were fascinated with his skilled handling of a fantastic subject. The Variety columnist was clever, witty, and crammed so many names and dates into his manuscript, that superficially Scully's work appeared convincing. Scully seasoned his writing with strong assertions of the extraterrestrial nature of the UFO phenomenon and strongly criticized some faceless Pentagon oppressors that were withholding the truth about flying saucers.

The success of Scully's book was helped considerably by Donald Keyhoe who established in the public's mind that flying saucers were real and probably from outer space. From Keyhoe it was just a short step to accepting the claim that one or more flying saucers had crashed since the outbreak of sightings in the U.S. in 1947, which was Scully's assertion.

In the House of Representatives, Congressman Edward Jenison (Rep. Ill.) cast aspersions on Scully's writings (September 20th), addressing himself to the theme that the nation was going through dangerous times (the Korean War) and the last thing the American people needed was mass hysteria, all too easily engendered by such wild speculations. Congressman Jenison read into the Congressional Record an article from Pathfinder magazine that told of Behind the Flying Saucers selling like hot cakes. Netted, Rep. Jenison harped on the apparent vacuum of authoritative assertion which he believed allowed doubt and conjecture to run rampant.[45]

Let no present day reader think that Americans of 1950 were not excitable and that undue emphasis has been placed on the war hysteria of the period. Those who doubt should check the newspaper files for themselves. A bad case of nerves infected the whole world. Sweden, after a radio scare over a fictional invasion of the country, had its Minister of Interior announce: "...the country is to have a special department to protect her against psychological warfare."[46]

A little newspaper of current events issued regularly to grammar school pupils as an educational aid: My Weekly Reader, managed to surpise a lot of parents. Their kids were learning from the Weekly Reader that the flying saucers definitely belonged to the U.S. Air Force and that was more than what an adult could learn from the New York Times.

Willing to pursue any lead, the Associated Press news service telephoned the publisher of My Weekly Reader, the

American Education Press, and asked the 64 dollar question: what was the editor's source of information? The answer was simple enough. The people at My Weekly Reader just assumed that the flying saucers were Pentagon gadgets; furthermore it was their belief that the nation's youngsters were being unduly excited by weird tales of spacemen arriving on Earth in outlandish contraptions. To prove their point about America's troubled youth, the Weekly Reader staff said they had been deluged by letters from young folks indicating "wide-spread hysteria" over supposed landings by tiny men from Venus (Scully's yarn), so to calm the kids it was decided to play up the U.S. Air Force experimental aircraft theory.[47]

A bigger name in journalism, the Christian Science Monitor, helped out by really lowering the boom on Scully but not before firing battleship broadsides at the whole UFO business for days until it finally zeroed in on the Variety writer. The Monitor had remained on the sidelines during the saucer controversy for a long time before jumping into the fray. It must be understood that the Boston based daily took enormous pride in being the first to acknowledge new developments in military science. Radar, jet airplanes, the bazooka, and early atomic research, for example, were all expounded upon in the pages of the Monitor from infant laboratory stages. However in its dealing with the discs, the Monitor found itself swimming in circles with the familiar means of garnering the "inside dope" yielding nothing. Exasperated, and not even sure something like a flying saucer actually existed, the Monitor moaned: "If they do, they constitute perhaps the best kept secret the United States ever had." How in tarnation then, as the Monitor's injured ego forced it to say, could: "...the Monitor bring to its readers, well ahead of time, balance judgment on the possibilities..."[48]

After the smoke had cleared from the Dimmick, and Henry J. Taylor commotions that Spring, the Monitor still found itself unsatisfied. The Monitor had managed to stay clear of the debate but that didn't mean it was not pondering a definite position on the UFO question. By the Fall of 1950, the Monitor had made up its mind. The writing assignment was given the Monitor's Natural Science Editor who whipped out a series of six articles that were published over a period of ten days, October 4 - 14th, 1950.

Well acquainted with the usual arguments and boasting of access to what he said was "Project SIGN's voluminous case histories," the Monitor editor wrote that he was in agreement with the Air Force's official conclusion that there was "no such animal" as a flying saucer. In the series' last installment, Scully's book, Behind the Flying Saucers, suffered a real drubbing. Even Donald Keyhoe's more rational efforts did not impress the Monitor editor, being cast aside with a terse dismissal: "This book [Flying Saucers Area Real] is not held in good repute by professional scientists."[49]

The Monitor threw in the towel too soon. The paper should have sent a reporter to Great Falls, Montana.

One of the most important UFO cases of the year came to the attention of the Air Force on September 13th when a letter arrived at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, headquarters for the Air Material Command. Written by the editor of the Great Falls, Montana Great Falls Leader, the missive informed the Air Force that the manager of a local baseball team had obtained movies of "two silvery discs" zooming over Great Falls and that the footage was causing considerable comment by those who had seen the film. The editor ended his letter with the statement that the owner of the film: "...will gladly give the film to any government agency, which may be interested."[50]

The Air Force, anxious to get its hands on something more than hearsay evidence, lost no time asking its local Montana unit, the 15th District OSI Office, to approach the film's owner. The 15th OSI unit was instructed to disregard any regulations that forbade investigative activity:

> "Your attention is invited to the provisions of AFCSI Letter No. 85, dated 8 February 1950. In the present instance this is a specific request from AMC."[51]

It is also interesting to read the main text of the letter which said:

> "In approaching Mr. Mariana for the film, you are requested to exercise every caution so as not to unduly excite his curiosity or interest or in anywise have him conclude that the Air Force may have reversed its policy from that previously announced with regard to the existence or non-existence of such unconventional objects. In this connection, you should avoid any detailed discussion, advising simply that the Air Force is also interested in any item that will contribute to the fund of technical intelligence. It is requested that the films be obtained and transmitted to this District for forwarding to the Intelligence Department at Air Material Command."[52]

The public relations problem was a sensitive one. A check of the September 1950 issue of Flying magazine, for example, shows that there were those who were still on the fence. Neither Donald Keyhoe or the Christian Science Monitor had made a convert. The magazine Flying declared:

> "Flying has made a careful investigation of the flying saucers. In the opinion of its editors, in the opinion of top-notch Washington military correspondents with whom we have discussed the subject in detail, no public commentator has satisfactorily explained the saucers or been able to present satisfactory proof of his theories. Flying welcomes detailed reports from

its readers accompanied if possible, by drawings and/or photographs."[53]

Confounding the situation was yet another far-fetched story.

An industrial publication, The Steep Rock Echo, of Steep Rock, Canada, carried an amazing story in its September-October 1950 issue. According to the story, a man and his wife went fishing in a remote cove of Sawbill Bay on July 2, 1950. Picnicing on a tiny beach, well cloaked by trees, bushes, and rock cliffs, the couple suddenly felt an aerial vibration. Puzzled, the husband pulled himself up to a cleft in a ridge of rock that screened the pair from the bay. Peering through the cleft, the man was stunned to see a shinning object, like two saucers rim to rim hovering just above the water only 400 yards distant. Around the edge were holes about four feet apart and on the top surface were opened hatches, evidently exit ports for some very queer faceless little gents 3½ to 4 feet in height wearing blue skull caps and gleaming metallic breast cloth. The strange mannerisms displayed seemed to confirm what the facelessness implied, that the figures were robots. Observing the figures move, the man noticed that they changed direction in a peculiar way. The feet turned but not the body. One robot was shifting a vivid green hose while a strange noise suggested the operation of a high speed pump. One robot wore a different colored cap, red, and was positioned at a stand located at the center-top from which protruded a hooped shaped antenna. Slowly rotating, the antenna must have been some kind of detector because it was seen to stop and face a deer that happened on the scene. The witness took no chances and ducked down whenever the hoop pointed his way. It was while he was in hiding that the figures reentered the craft, for when he peeked again, the figures were gone and the craft was tilted at 45 degrees. A reddish-blue flash and blast of air marked the object's swift departure.

It was certainly an entertaining story. An American magazine reprinted it and later in 1954 the Steep Rock episode turned up in Harold T. Wilkins' book: Flying Saucers on the Attack, published in 1954.[54] As late as 1967, Frank Edwards told the story again in one of his UFO books. It wasn't until the late 1970's that a civilian researcher by the name of Robert Badgley learned that a Gordon Edward had created the yarn for the amusement of the Steep Rock Echoe's readers. The robots of Sawbill Bay were as fictitious as Frank Scully's little men which no doubt was the inspiration.[55]

Here would be as good as place as any to inject another scrap of data. On a page in Scully's book, Behind the Flying Saucers, is a quick nod to an "astronomer" and his opinion on UFO's, a certain "professor George Adamski of Palomar." Although he had little formal education, Adamski did not discourage any impression to the contrary, as when an article appeared

in the September 1950 issue of Fate magazine titled: "Flying Saucers--As Astronomers See Them," authored by a "professor" George Adamski. Essentially the little essay contained a clarification of some news stories in San Diego newspapers about Adamski's supposed difficulties with the U.S. Navy Electronic Laboratory over some "saucer pictures." The article's contribution to the debate went: "...did Adamski claim to have gotten images of a genuine space ship?" The answer to that poser was an emphatic no! Fate maintained, with Adamski's blessing, that the "professor" had merely raised the possibility of a photographic capture and the saucer saturated press had given his words a pro-alien twist, an incongruous national debute for a person who eventually put Scully's yarn to shame.[56]

The Fate article helped Adamski financially. He admitted:

> "People wanted prints of the pictures I had taken, so I had some made up and set a nominal price on them. Here was the first opportunity I had to let the saucers at least help to pay some of the large expense I had been put to in trying to photograph them and prove their reality."[57]

Returning to the UFO wave of 1950, we find more sightings coming from the northern part of the country.

In September 1950, at Du Bois, Pennsylvania, a "flying saucer" had perhaps one of its largest audiences. A group of 80 National Guardsmen, members of the 229th Field Artillery, Battery A, were preparing to leave for Camp Atterbury to join the 28th Division in the course of their Korean War call up. The Army men reported seeing a rotating object about 30 feet in diameter some 4,000 feet above the Du Bois Airport. The troops said the object had a metallic finish and left a vapor trail.[58]

At Winona, Ontario, Canada, on September 9th, something was seen in the sky and was reported by the Hamilton Spectator.

The same evening Edward R. Murrow presented an hour long television round-up on the UFO mystery, but it did not alter the pattern of the northward shift in reports and the nation did not become uniformly drenched with saucer sightings the next day. The northward shift had largely passed over the U.S. except for a few sightings here and there.

More movie film, 10 feet of 8mm, was allegedly taken through a 6-power telescoptic lens by a J. Murphy, as a dime-like object spun across the sky over Wickiup Reservoir in central Oregon on September 12th. The bobbing of the fishing boat was said to have reduced the value of the 31 seconds of film but who knows what modern technical methods could determine from the image on the frames. What happened to the film? Nothing further seems to be known about it, whether it is still

in the possession of Mr. Murphy or in some Air Force vault.

Another bit of photo evidence at this time was a still photo showing a strange circular image with a black dot in the center, a thing that threw off beams of light in all directions while sprewing out a long comet-like wake. The picture was supposed to have been taken on September 14th at a place in the Canadian province of Ontario.[59]

"Do discs hide inside envelopes of colored light?"

Flying in the face of the northern shift was the continued interest in New Mexico by UFO's. On September 12th, another report came in from Los Alamos, and on September 17th, from Albuquerque, but the most interesting was the one made the 17th by a civilian oil worker concerning an object spotted in the sky near the New Mexico city of Tatum. An organe-yellow ball of light with a whitish tail slowly sailed into view on a southerly course. The witness said of the object:

> "There were no distinct edges on the object, the orange yellow was fuzzed at the edges and the same applies to the gray band in the middle.
>
> "At no time did the object seem to be spinning or rotating.[60]

The question is: "was the thin gray band of color inside the colored globe a flying disc?"

The witness made a drawing of the object and forwarded it, along with a written account of his experience, to Air Force Intelligence at Roswell Air Force Base. Lt. Colonel Aram S. Tootelian, of the Roswell office, was receptive to the civilian's report because, as Officer Tootelian stated in his own report on events to higher headquarters, he had learned: "A few hours later on, the same date, an unidentified airborne object was observed from Walker Air Force Base by members of this command."[61] The facts on the Walker Air Force Base case were as follows:

> "At approximately 2100 hours on 17 September 1950, while on Guard Duty on the 830th Ramp Area, I saw a bluish white light appear south east of the Base approximately ten miles distance. This object was headed northwest at a fast rate of speed. It appeared to be about ten feet in diameter and circular in shape. At approximately two miles northwest of the Base the object veered sharply to the right and then disappeared from sight. No sound could be heard from this object. It appeared to be approximately eight thousand feet high."[62]

Besides the Staff Sergeant quoted above, six other military men were listed as witnesses.

Two days later yet another report was made at Taos, New Mexico.

Just north of New Mexico on September 20th in Colorado, a man who was described as a reliable source by military Intelligence saw something while driving on a road between Kit Carson and Cheyenne Wells:

> "...he observed five objects in the sky which he described as 'fireballs' or 'flying saucers.' Two of these objects were fairly large and appeared to be three to seven feet in diameter and were saucer shaped or spherical. They looked as if they were masses of glowing molten metal. When first observed they appeared to be hovering at an altitude of about 500 feet, at any rate, definitely below the cloud ceiling. They hovered for about one minute and then proceeded across the road along which the informant was driving, at a speed estimated to be about 200 miles per hour. While crossing the road, three smaller objects, also apparently internally illuminated, came from out of or from behind the two larger ones. Immediately thereafter the three smaller objects aligned themselves with the two larger ones. Thereupon all the objects greatly increased speed and changed their direction toward the vertical, away from the earth. Their speed upon changing course was judged to be approximately 2,000 miles per hour. They then almost immediately disappeared from sight. Informant could not determine whether they had moved out of sight or whether the light within the objects had been suddenly turned off. The apparition was also seen by a truck driver who had stopped his truck for the purpose of getting a better view of the objects."[63]

British news services carried a UFO story about something over Halifax, Nova Scotia, on September 21st, but a much better case occurred further south in Massachusetts and it merits an extensive treatment.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, under contract with the U.S. Signal Corps, was testing some radar equipment on September 21st near Provincetown when a strange target appeared on the radar scope. The MIT experts tracked the interloper. They termed the incident "exceedingly puzzling" especially after the strange blip executed turns that produced more than five "Gs," or more than it was thought possible the human frame could stand. In straight flight the UFO raced along at some 1,200 miles per hour. The experts at MIT had probably skipped over flying saucer stories in the newspapers before this but abruptly they found themselves confronted with something hard to believe and impossible to ignore. A spokesman for MIT wrote a letter to a Major Tuttle, Staff Weather Officer, 33rd Fighter Wing, Otis Air Force Base, Massachusetts. The spokesman expressed amazement over the incident:

"The whole thing doesn't seem to make sense as you will discover when you reflect a moment about it. It was very evidently an interception of some sort on our flight, but what? The turn was utterly fantastic, I don't think the human frame could absorb it, but if the object was radio controlled, it had no particular business flying on such courses as planes occupied on legitimate business. A few rough calculations concerning control surfaces, angles, etc., only adds to the puzzle that this object must have been entirely unconventional in many and basic respects. Perhaps the thing that bothers me the most is that it gave a very good radar echo, which implies irregular surfaces and comparatively large size, large enough so the pilots might have had a good chance to see it.

"It seems highly probable that I may be poking into something that is none of my business, but on the other hand, it may be something that the Air Force would like to know about if it doesn't already. I wish you would take the matter up with your intelligence officer or C.O. and get their reactions. The whole thing has got us going nuts here and we don't know whether to talk about it or keep our mouths shut. Until I hear from you, we will do the latter.

"Perhaps we could run another mission for the purpose of luring it out again and this time track it, or at least get your pilots close enough for a look--they'd never catch it I'm sure..."64

Fair Park Drive-in's special added attraction.

Alabama's Birmingham Post-Herald exclaimed on September 26th:

"Lo and behold--up comes another flying saucer story.

"This time it comes from a man who should know what he's talking about--Aubrey Yates, Jefferson County sheriff's deputy, who's a licensed flier and a member of the Air Force Reserve.

"Mr. Yates, who lives at 3116 Avenue, Fairfield, went to the Fair Park drive-in movie last night.

"Midway the movie, he looked up, saw a 'cigar-shaped object right above the screen.'

"My wife saw it, too, and we watched it for about 15 minutes,' said the deputy. 'It looked like a cigar burning on both ends--two big glows with a kind of soft glow in between.'

"Then all at once, the thing disappeared. 'It went straight up and disappeared in about three seconds,' said Yates.

"At the airport, the U.S. Weather Bureau said it received several other calls, describing the object as Yates did."[65]

An object "like a plate--also somewhat translucent" was spotted over Windsor Locks, Conneticut on September 26th.[66]

October.

In England, Gerald Heard's UFO book was finally published with the title: The Riddle of the Flying Saucers. (It was later published in the United States with the title: Is Another World Watching?) The London Sunday Dispatch bought serialization rights and began printing excerpts beginning October 1st. The first installment was introduced by the newspaper's editor who wrote that there was a reason the Sunday Dispatch was paying good money to take a chance on a bizarre subject. The Dispatch, he wrote had recently published an impressive UFO report from America, Orangeburg, South Carolina to be exact, which prompted a letter to the editor from: "...one of the great war leaders, a man with a world-wide reputation, a man who has held one of the highest positions open to any Englishman."[67] The concerned author of the missive had been none other than Field Marshall Downing, Chief of the figher defense in World Ward II during the "Battle of Britain." In his letter, Field Marshall Downing stressed the world-wide character of the flying saucer phenomenon and the mystery's persistence while expressing disappointment that the UFO problem was being ridiculed in England which inhibited educated conjecture. In closing, he congratulated the editor of the Dispatch for having the courage to print UFO reports. Flattered, the editor of the Dispatch paid a visit to the war hero and after a cordial interview came away resolved to alert the whole of England to the UFO riddle.[68] Could there have been anything but a warm reception at the offices of the Sunday Dispatch for Heard's UFO writings?

Word gets around on Fleet Street, so when the Dispatch made plans to carry the serialization of Heard's book, a rival, the London Sunday Express, immediately signed an agreement with American publishing houses to print excerpts from the UFO books of Frank Scully and Donald Keyhoe. The battle of ink was on.

Four of Britain's mass-circulation weeklies and dailies went at it tooth and nail after the first installment of Heard's writings reached London's newspaper stands. On one side stood the London Sunday Express and the London Sunday Dispatch, both of which tilliated their readers with the words of Heard, Scully and Keyhoe, words which amounted to forceful warnings of "spies from outer space." Opposed to the pro-Saucerians was the Reynold's News & Sunday Chronicle which lectured people about the great UFO myth, and about gullibility in general, quoting renowned scientific authorities debunking flying saucer-itis.[69]

In the Reynolds camp, more or less, reposed the respected London Times, for although the Times is known as the "Thunderer" because of its influential editorials, news stories and letters to the editor, its daring in saucer matters was pretty bland stuff.[70]

Meanwhile, back in the States.

On October 3rd, a J.D. Laudermilk, a geochemist living in the city of Pomona, California, sighted a "Disk moving with a wobbling motion that passed behind a mountain peak, minimum speed computed to be 720 mph."[71]

Two days later a widely publicized case occurred in the same region and it could be how the press reacted which was the real story.

California Central Airlines Flight 71 lifted off from Burbank, California Airport on October 5th with 20 people aboard. Reaching an altitude of 4,500 feet, Captain Cecil Hardin banked his airliner to put it on a course to Oakland. So far it was a routine night run. Flight 71 hadn't gotten far, however, when six to eight lights, a brilliant white, suddenly appeared dead ahead and approaching fast. Captain Hardin and co-pilot Jack Conroy tensed on the controls wondering what to do. Puzzled, Captain Hardin didn't recognize any pattern to the lights for they seemed too widely separated to be distributed over an aircraft. He thought to himself: "flying chandeliers?" After about six seconds Captain Hardin jerked his controls to avoid a collision. He swore the lights veered off too, for as he pulled up, the lights seemed to shoot down to the right, just missing the airliner by some 500 feet. No propwash was felt but a woman passenger trying to comfort an irritable child did notice something flash by the plane's windows at the time. After landing, Captain Hardin informed the press about the incident.

The newspaper that reported the story remarked: "...lots of pilots have been seeing weird lights in Southern California lately--supersonic glowworms or stratospheric fireworks or something."[72, 73]

Instead of ending the news story with the standard statements about how the Air Force had found no evidence to prove the existence of flying saucers, the reporter rambled on awhile about Frank Scully and the Variety columnist's claims about 30 inch men from Venus, not in a serious way perhaps, but then Scully didn't really fare that bad either. The reporter selected one statement from Scully's writings for a quote: "If the Defense Department denies this [the existence of a crashed Venusian saucer] don't believe it. Believe me." It would appear that the military was slipping in its public relations battle. This possibility was given some apparent credibility by word from Great Falls, Montana, earlier that day when the photographer of the Great Falls UFO movie film told the Associated Press that the military had confiscated his color film while warning him: "...not to give out any more detail about it."[74]

When the word "confiscation" hit the news wire on that day of October 5th, the military was quick to profess its innocence:

> "Air Material Command officials at Wright-Patterson AFB Thursday denied a report that they had confiscated colored motion pictures of two silver discs flying over a Great Falls, Montana ball park.
>
> "'We do not have any such films here at Air Material Command headquarters,' a spokesman for the public information office said. He did not elaborate."[75]

The officer who "hushed" Mariana was apparently Air Force Captain John Brynildsen of Great Falls Air Force Base. Press comment went:

> "Thursday AMC officials said they had 'not' received the films. Friday, however, an intelligence officer from the Great Falls AFB told the Associated Press he had Mariana's films and was sending them to the Wright-Patterson base 'today.'
>
> "The films are expected to arrive in Dayton Monday."[76]

A serious and puzzling difference of opinion occurred at the time and it has never been resolved to everyone's satisfaction. Official records put the military's view of the controversy this way:

> "His [Mariana] only complaint against the Air Force is that several frames (about 35% of the total) were removed when the film was originally lent the Air Force. Despite this, he has been most cooperative and all his reports on the matter appear to be honest and sincere beliefs."[77]

Addressing itself to Mariana's accusation, Air Force Intelligence included this in its confidential file on the matter:

> "...the statement attributed to Mr. Mariana that a number of frames had been removed from the film while in the possession of the Air Force is without foundation. In fact, official Air Force files indicate that the film was in damaged condition when received, and that this was acknowledged by both Mr. Mariana and the local Air Force representative. The Air Force requested Mr. Mariana's permission to repair the film, advising him at the same time that a frame or two might be lost in the process. Mr. Mariana wired permission on the

following day through the local Air Force representative."[78]

Was the film too dark?

When the film did get to Wright Field on that Monday, Octobe 9, 1950, the supposed photographic evidence got a quick brush-off:

> "The Great Falls officer forwarded the films to AMC intelligence officials last Friday. The films arrived at the Wright-Patterson base late Monday evening and were viewed immediately.
>
> "After viewing the films the AMC officials issued the following statement:
>
> > "'The film is too dark to distinguish any recognizable objects. For this reason it will not be sent on to Washington headquarters. The Air Force has no further interest in the film. The film will be returned to the owner, with thanks for his cooperation, if he wants it back.'"[79]

The original cursory judgment was termed an example of "military obfuscation" by William Harmann, a University of Colorado investigator in 1968 when he reviewed the case. The exact 1950 Air Force statement: "...our photo analysis was unable to find on it anything identifiable of an unusual nature. Our report of analysis must therefore be negative."[80]

In 1956 a civilian photographic expert gave the film the exhaustive examination it merited, and after weeks of study, the expert, Dr. R. M. Baker of Douglas Aircraft, filed his report:

> "Visual study of the reprints, in both cinema projection and frame-by-frame examination on a Recordak, an Iconolog and a traveling microscope revealed the following: The reprinted part of the 16mm film comprises about 280 frames. The first few frames had been torn from the rest in the original, but apparently were spliced correctly for the reprinting. On many of the frames two bright white round dots stand out against the dark blue sky. They are largest and brightest on the first ten or twenty frames and gradually fade away until they can no longer be definitely made out beyond frame #225. Although there are numerous other dots, spots, and specks on many of the frames, most of them are less bright, less distinct, and they appear at random; presumably they are blemishes caused by imperfections of the film or the

processing. Against them the two UFO images are quite conspicuous and readily distinguished by their almost constant relative orientation and sharpness as well as by their steady movement across the landscape."[81]

Furthermore:

"No details can be recognized on the images of the objects, i.e., no structure of any kind, no color fringes, no shape, even under a high power microscope. The images are uniformly round white dots, except a few which are oblong (frames 15, 17, 19 or 56, etc.), both objects parallel, probably as a result of camera motion blur."[82]

A point of confusion was the exact day Mariana filmed the two objects passing over Great Falls. Mariana said he couldn't be sure if the date was August 5th or August 15th. The Air Force readily accepted the August 15th date because two F-94 aircraft passed over Great Falls on the 15th and the time and flight path apparently correlated quite well with the objects Mariana filmed. The Air Force said that a:

"...check of the records of Base Operations, Great Falls Air Force Base, Great Falls, Montana, indicates that an F-94 aircraft, #2503, and F-94 type aircraft, #2502, landed at Great Falls Air Force Base at 1133 and 1130 hours (Mountain Standard Time) on 15 August 1950. These aircraft were assigned to the 449th Fighter Squadron, Ladd Air Force Base, Alaska."[83]

Moreover, an Associated Press story datelined October 5, 1950, Great Falls, Montana, states: "The photographer insists that he saw the two jets also and even made a comparison, naming the fighters much faster than the UFO's."[84]

Did Mariana actually say that, or did someone falsely attribute the words to him? A subsequent inquiry detailed Mariana's opinion of the Air Force's F-94 explanation. He:

"... professed to no knowledge of the Air Force's 'identification' of the filmed objects as two F-94 circling to land at the Great Falls Air Base...he remembered no aircraft in the sky near the time of his UFO sighting, and thought the aircraft explanation absurd. Nor did he recall that he had claimed in the documental film, and in letters which are part of the Blue Book case file, to have seen two airplanes approaching Great Falls Air Base just after he took his UFO movies."[85]

A check of Air Force files reveals that in an official memorandum dated October 6th it was stated: "Mr. Mariana stated almost immediately after taking the motion pictures, two USAF jet type aircraft had flown across the sky east of him, heading in a southerly direction."[86]

While the forementioned statement discredits Mariana, it is not a direct quote. But even if we accept the statement as accurate, it does not explain things because the UFO's passed on a north to south course to the west of Mariana, flying parallel to the Missouri River and on a heading that took them directly over Great Falls Municipal Airport.* According to the Air Force memorandum, the jets were to the east, and since the jets were also heading south, they could not have been the UFO's flying in a wide circle.

Also, if the UFO's were the Air Force jets in a landing pattern for Malstron Air Force Base, which was just outside Great Falls due east of the city, what sort of thinking puts a landing pattern where it passes directly over a nearby airfield?

And then there is another problem. According to Mr. Mariana's testimony, he had been checking wind conditions prior to a ball game since he was the manager of the Great Falls semi-pro baseball team, the Great Falls Electrics. It had been during the checking of the wind conditions that he first noticed the UFO's he subsequently photographed. It was years later before someone thought to search newspaper files to determine where and when Mariana's team played in August 1950. Records show that the Great Falls Electrics were in Twin Falls, Idaho, on August 15, 1950! Moreover, Mariana's team played no games in Great Falls at all between August 9th and August 18th. This restores the August 5th date to favor and discredits the Air Force's F-94 aircraft explanation.[87]

It's obvious that Mariana's secretary should have been questioned about the aircraft and the date of the sighting, but there is little in official files about the woman's account of the incident. All we have is a single paragraph and even that small amount raises more questions than it answers:

> "The secretary was the only witness to the UFO filming. She remembered distinctly seeing a single object and rushing outside the baseball stadium with her employer to watch him film it. She was certain it could not have been an airplane, because its appearance was quite different from that of a plane. She remembers seeing only one object, while the movie unambiguously shows two almost identical objects moving across the sky."[88]

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*The reader should consult the map on p. 410 of the book Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. One look at the map will make clear the position of the two airfields; one west of Great Falls, the Municipal Airport; and the other, Malstron Air Force Base to the east. The path of the UFO's is also shown.

Another point, which became the focus of a heated debate, concerned some "missing" frames.

One might guess that if some frames had been removed, the cutting may have been done at Great Falls Air Force Base before the film had been forwarded to Wright Field, Ohio. The film was handed over to Captain Brynildsen on Thursday, October 5th, and it did not reach Intelligence Headquarters in Ohio until Monday, October 9th.

If the military did chop up Mariana's film, the motive may have had something to do with what Captain Brynildsen of Great Falls Air Force Base passed on to his superiors:

> "Captain Brynildsen of the 15th OSI District, advised this headquarters on 9 October 1950, that Mr. Mariana had been approached by representatives of Life magazine, Movietone News and True magazine all of whom requested subject film."[89]

An investigation years later gave support to Mariana's charge:

> "[Those]...who had seen it [the film] both before and after it was lent to the Air Force firmly believed that not all the original film was returned by the Air Force...[Air Force] files contained some evidence lending credence to this claim. The original letter of transmittal of the film from Great Falls AFB to Wright-Patterson AFB stated that approximately 15 feet of film were being transmitted. Only some 7 feet were analyzed by Dr. Baker in 1956."[90]

The alleged missing section was described by Mariana this way:

> "...the first 30 odd frames showed larger images of the UFO's with a notch or band at one point on the periphery of the objects by which they could be seen to rotate in unison..."[91]

Some aspects really puzzled Dr. Roy Craig, but since he was authorized to review the Mariana case under sponsorship of the Air Force (The 1968 study of UFO's conducted by the University of Colorado supported by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Office of Aerospace Research, USAF, under contract F44620-67-C-0035), his criticism of the military was cautious.

His comment went:

> "An indication of the manner in which representatives of the Air Force dealt with the photographer, after the original UFO report was submitted in 1950, is given in a written statement

to him from Air Material Command Headquarters. After examination of the film, which clearly showed two images crossing the sky and passing behind the distant water tower, the statement read: '...our photo analyses were unable to find on it anything identifiable of an unusual nature. Our report of analysis must therefore be negative. This writer prefers to leave interpretation of this statement to the reader."[92]

"Bird Watchers."

Meanwhile, from New Mexico at the time came some news of the activities of the "Los Alamos Bird Watchers Association." Not only do we learn something of the results obtained by the "Association," but something of the gestation of the group.

The "Association" got its start in 1949 at Mt. Palomar, California, when odd radiation readings were recorded. The experts at the Observatory suspected that the unexplained burst of energy might have had something to do with reports of UFO's in the vicinity. Air Force records tell us:

"The Navy, it was a Navy cosmic ray contract, supposedly investigated, wrote a report, anc concluded that this was all due to a circuit failure. The people operating the equipment also checked and are claimed to have flatly denied this saying that due to the circuitry it would be impossible for similar failures to occur in all the circuits at the same time.

"Shortly after this occurrence, one of the persons involved in the incidents at Palomar moved to Los Alamos. He continued to be interested and also interested some friends in setting up the same type of equipment on their own time. They did this and they also detected unknown radiation. In two instances, they were able to correlate these with newspaper reports of the sighting of an UFO. In these instances the people could not get outside to observe and had to depend on newspaper reports of UFO's for correlations.

"Similar observations of radiation from an unknown source were made on:

1 Oct. 50 - 1921 MST
2 Oct. 50 - 1401 MST
4 Oct. 50 - 2305 MST
9 Oct. 50 - 0855 MST"[93]

The Air Force file commented further:

The above was checked in ATIC Blue Book File but there was no record of any incidents

on these dates. This does not mean very much, however, since it is known that a lot of the incident files were destroyed about this time."*[94]

Furthermore:

"It should be noted that all of the people involved in this are qualified scientists working at Los Alamos. They have checked every possible source of the radiation they can think of and cannot account for it. They have discussed this with many people including well-known scientists visiting Los Alamos and there is no ready explanation, either for the source of the radition detected or the correlation between visual sightings and the radiation.

"Reports of these incidents were made to the Security Force at Los Alamos and supposedly were to be forwarded to the Air Force. As far as can be determined, they were never received at ATIC."[95]

"Fails to indicate spaceships."

The FBI, concerned with the safety of the New Mexico installations, contacted the Air Force about any results of Project TWINKLE since the military had not advised them of such. Hoover's subordinate, Mr. Ladd, wrote in a memorandum:

"Bureau liaison determined on the morning of October 9, 1950, from OSI headquarters that investigations of these phenomena are being handled by OSI, Wright Field, Ohio. Their investigation of these phenomena fails to indicate that the sightings involved space ships or missiles from any other planet or country. According to OSI, the complaints [UFO reports] received by them have failed to indicate any definite pattern of activity."[96]

Since the FBI's jurisdiction was primarily that of internal security, the possibility that UFO's were Russian was the chief worry of the organization headed by J. Edgar Hoover. By October 1950, Hoover's top aide, D. M. Ladd, was able to provide comforting news to the Director. According to Ladd's memorandum (which reflected the lack of aggressive action more than the actual situation), from June to September, UFO reports at a rate of only 3 to 4 a month were being

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*Here is a very fascinating admission! What files were destroyed? How man files? What has been lost to the UFO historian due to this Orwellian tactic?

received by the Bureau, thus Mr. Ladd was encouraged to express to Hoover the news that: "A review of Bureau files does not indicate that there has been any increase in the sightings of these phenomena during or as a result of the war in Korea."[97]

Vision in Vermont.

The OSI noticed an article in a Vermont newspaper and forwarded a report to Washington headquarters:

> "...strange appearing objects were sighted in the sky between 1915 and 2145 hours, 9 October 1950 by residents of six towns in the Barre, Vermont area. Description of the objects varied. A Mrs. --- (deleted) of Graniteville, described one of the objects as 'green and surrounded by a ring--it looked like a picture of a planet you see in a child's book.' The object, according to Mrs. --- (deleted) and several other individuals present, then changed to cylindrical form, hovering about the horizon, disappearing and re-appearing. Another individual in a nearby area reported two cylindrical objects, hazy and bluish in color, and disappearing in a vertical ascent while he watched. The newspaper article indicated that no noises were heard by the individuals."[98]

Attached to the report was the usual comment by the local OSI Office that: "...no investigative action has been initiated."

"They will soon land."

Silas Newton (one of the main characters in the Frank Scully hoax) reviewed the oustanding science fiction movie, Destination Moon for a Denver newspaper. His reaction was published on October 10, 1950:

> "Now that 'Destination Moon' has done it, why not cross over into the magnetic fields that surround the other planets in our solar system and visit them? We might find a people, say on Venus, that have discarded war for planetary peace. What a dream!"[100]

The newspaper commented:

> "Mr. Newton prognosticated that saucers soon would land on the earth, because they had evidently nearly completed their survey. He set the date as winter 1950, or at least by fall of 1951."[101]

Any person well acquainted with UFO history would wonder if a certain "professor" George Adamski knew of Newton's

thoughts and timetable. It's unlikely Adamski read Denver newspapers, but Newton got around, enjoyed publicity, and often visited the Los Angeles area. An item in a Borderland Associate newsletter, a comment on the radio, or a newswire filler in one of the bigger newspapers, are all possible ways Adamski might have come across Newton's ideas. If it could be established Adamski and Newton knew each other, the possible scenario becomes fascinating.

Alert! Alert!

Knoxville Airport radar, Knoxville, Tennessee, picked up a number of unidentified targets over the "Restricted Zone" at the Oak Ridge atomic facility on October 12th at 11:25 p.m. Some 22 minutes later fighter aircraft that were vectored to the area to challenge the UFO's reported nothing in sight.[102]

The next afternoon something more substantial visited Oak Ridge yet witnesses were not inclined to believe their own eyes.

Puzzling "polywog."

The following relates one of the weirdest UFO reports ever made. If it were not for the caliber of the witnesses the report might be chucked into the "round file." Official Army Intelligence records state that "something" was observed at Oak Ridge atomic installation at 1520 hours October 13th:

> "...Atomic Energy Security Patrol Trooper, Edward D. Ryner, and a caretaker, John Moneymaker, from the University of Tennessee Research Farm at Oak Ridge, saw an object at about 12,000 to 15,000 feet above Soloway Gate of the "Control Zone.' This object appeared to be an aircraft which was starting to make an outside loop, trailing smoke behind. Soon these two men realized that the formerly described smoke behind the aircraft was a tail."[103]

What was this tail? Since there were at least two other UFO reports during the year of 1950 that mention a "tail," it is perhaps important to describe it in detail. One "wild" theory is that the ribbon was a device for collecting radioactive particles in the air over Oak Ridge.

According to one witness the tail was ribbon-like, some 20 feet long, and about an inch wide with no apparent thickness. It's color was a light gray with a thick black line running down through its center.[104]

Another source said of the tail:

> "The tail appeared to be waving or rippling and the latter 15 feet of the tail gave off a pulsating glow intermittently in different sections

of the 15 feet. It also appeared that this section of the tail was somewhat transparent. Trooper Rymer estimated that the object was traveling about three miles per hour and the main body of the object was rocking slightly showing the corners and the under and top side."[105]

Witnesses remarked that the object appeared to be in the shape of a "two by five inch grayish colored card" at arm's length and with no thickness. The thing approached the witnesses in a slow controlled dive:

"...and when it approached the ground it levelled off and flew slowly, parallel to the ground. This object came within two hundred and ten feet of the two observers and was paralleling the ground at approximately the speed that a man could walk, at a height of approximately six feet. Trooper Rymer attempted to approach the object but as he approached the object became smaller and started moving in a southeasterly direction. This object is said to have approached a nine foot cyclone chain link fence and made a controlled movement to clear the fence, then a willow tree, then a telephone post and wire, after which the object gained momentum and altitude and cleared a hill at approximately one mile away. The object appeared to be pear shaped. When this object was over the hill it was still visible as the same sized object that was observed when only fifty feet away.

"Approximately five minutes later the object appeared again having reappeared from approximately the same location from which it had disappeared. The object was seen again five minutes later for approximately ten seconds.

"During the above happenings, Mr. John Moneymaker had visual reference of this object during its first sight for approximately seven minutes. Trooper Rymer was interrupted twice during which times he called his headquarters in an attempt to get other observers. Also, during the fantastic flight of this object, Trooper Rymer stopped Mr. E. W. Hightower, who was on the highway in his vehicle, to verify what was being seen. Mr. Hightower's statement substantiates the description as before.

"By the time the object appeared the second time, Joe Zarzecki, Captain of the Atomic Energy Commission Security Patrol, was present and also witnessed this phenomenon.

"Each of the observers described the object substantially as follows:

"a. When the object was first sighted, it appeared to be an aircraft, trailing smoke, or better described as 'smoke writing.'

"b. When the object was approaching the ground in its descent, it took on the shape of a bullet with a large tail.

"c. When the object was sighted on the ground (from approximately 210 feet), it appeared to be approximately the size of a 2 x 5 card, with a 20 foot ribbon tail. The object and the tail were alternately moving up and down, and the ribbon appeared to be waving in the breeze. The color was a metallic grey.

"d. When Trooper Rymer came within 50 feet of the object he described it similar to the above except that the first two and one-half feet of the tail appeared more solid, but the last 17½ feet of the tail appeared almost transparent and was glowing, intermittently, in sections. The tail appeared to have four or five sections which would glow intermittently."[106]

The Intelligence report then gives the qualifications of the witnesses:

"Trooper Rymer's record is among the best of the troopers at the Atomic Energy Commission Security Patrol. Mr. John Moneymaker holds Badge No. UT-1817, and is employed by the University of Tennessee Agricultural Research Farm as a caretaker for small animals. Mr. E. W. Hightower holds Badge No. 6633 and is an employee of the Maxon Construction Company."[107]

Odd radar targets were also recorded at the same time: 1520 hours. The Army Intelligence report stated:

"...Capt. W. Akin, of Detachment No. 2, 662 AC & W Sqd., McGee-Tyson Airport..at the Knoxville Airport Radar Site, made a report that he had seen peculiar readings on the radar scopes at approximately 1520 hours. Apparently the radar picture was indefinite, intermittent, and inaccurate, because the objects sighted by radar would only make a short 'painting' on the scope and would then disappear only to

reappear at another location. [This would be understandable if the targets were related in some way to the UFO seen at Soloway Gate which maneuvered at such a low altitude it would be ducking in and out of the radar beam.]"[108]

"Higher Headquarters doubts the events."

When on October 16th, more strange targets appeared on Knoxville radar, there was some confusion which Army Intelligence explained this way: "Apparently the Commanding Officer was reluctant to make any statement concerning these readings due to higher Headquarters doubting the events of the past few days."[109]

Object over Ohio.

In a letter penned two years after the event, a Robert Klotts told the Air Force:

> "About the middle of October 1950, I was driving south on one of the main streets here in Columbus [Ohio]. The weather was cloudy with occasional patches of blue sky and the time was shortly after noon, probably 12:30 p.m. While temporarily detained in a traffic line I chanced to look at the sky and there, very high above, due south and slightly west, a huge copper-colored object was silhouetted against a patch of blue sky. It was completely motionless when I first observed it. As I focused my attention in an effort to comprehend what I was seeing, the object, which was perfectly round in shape, developed a peculiar rocking motion and shot across the sky at an incredible speed and disappeared behind a cloud."[110]

"Meteor ruled out."

Large aircraft have a small plastic dome through which the navigator "shoots" the stars with a sextant to obtain a fix on the plane's location. It so happened that during the flight of a MATS Air Rescue aircraft, the crew's navigator was looking at the stars when he sighted something "resembling" a meteor. The official Air Intelligence Information Report gives a summary of the incident:

> "The following is an account of an observation of an unidentified aerial object sighted from a position of 33 degrees 53 minutes 30 seconds North, 117 degrees 15 minutes 30 seconds west, at approximately 0350 GCT, 14 October 1950. The sighting was made by a USAF officer-navigator during a period of celestial navigation.

"a. Number : One
b. Shape : Round, similar to that of a planet.
c. Size : Approximately that of a planet.
d. Color : Luminous, bright red, unsteady in intensity, somewhat similar to an aircraft's exhaust flame.
e. Speed : Undetermined, but appeared to be great.
f. Heading : 180 degrees true course.
g. Maneuverability: Object seemed to accomplish every maneuver and combination thereof known to witness.
h. Altitude : Undetermined, but appeared to be at a very great altitude as though within the celestial sphere.
i. Sound : None.
j. Exhaust trail : None."[111]

"Do you see what I see?"

Another of the many 1950 UFO-airliner encounters:

"What Capt. George A. Woodward of Miami saw while flying a Miami Airlines, Inc., DC-4 over North Carolina yesterday [October 15th] might not have been flying saucers but he doesn't know what else to call them.

"Woodward and co-pilot William Bradsley of Miami, reported seeing four shiny objects which they couldn't identify. The Civil Aeronautics Administration office at Florence, S.C., said it had received similar reports, the latest about three weeks ago.

"'We took off from Raleigh for Miami at 4:00 p.m. (EST) and 20 minutes later I saw four shiny objects that looked like balloons,' Woodward said.

"'My co-pilot looked at me and said: 'Do you see what I see?'

"'I told him I did and we headed toward them. They appeared to be about 100 feet in diameter, of some shiny substance like aluminum or chrome. They were thicker in the middle and tapered off, like two saucers fitted together.'

"'They were in line about 25 feet apart and about five miles away. We chased them but they backed away, descending slowly, then took off in a burst of speed.'

"Woodward said he had been flying 12 years and had never seen such objects. He said he wasn't sure what they were but they weren't planes or balloons.

"He sighted them near Pope Air Force Base, Fort Bragg, N.C., and reported it to the CAA offices in Lumberton, N.C., and Florence, he said."[112]

"In spite of the termination."

An Air Force pilot observed an "unconventional type aircraft" which so amazed him he felt he had to file a report. Cognizant of Air Force regulations that discouraged the reporting of UFO's, the pilot nonetheless addressed a letter to the Director of Intelligence, United States Air Force. The pilot led off with: "The following report of observation of unconventional type aircraft is submitted in spite of the termination of inquiry into this subject." He then wrote:

"On October 15, 1950, at 1625 EST, the undersigned observed a jet plane moving in a Northeasterly direction at an altitude of 35-40,000 feet. Plane not visible but characteristic sound accompanied flight as well as an easily observed and clearly defined contrail.

"At 1625,40 while observer was following the flight of the jet an object oblate and spheroid in shape crossed the line of flight of the jet plane and continued its movement in a northwesterly direction. Total length of observation, 10-12 seconds.

"Object appeared to be constructed of aluminum or like substance...speed unknown...altitude unknown ...trail none. Object followed a perfectly straight line of flight.

"Observer realizes that paucity of detail in this report makes it unsuitable material from an intelligence standpoint, but there is a strong likelihood that the object sighted is the same or one of the same objects sighted and reported by a commercial airlines pilot of the Miami Air Lines. He reported sighting a group of saucer-like objects (four in number) in the vicinity of Pope AFB, N.C., at 1620 EST. Pilot pursued objects for period of time before losing them.

"If certain assumptions are made, the following conclusions are well within the realm of possibility:

--Pilot's time of observation - 1620 EST.

--Length of pursuit (estimated) - 3 minutes.

--Speed of pursuing a/c (estimated) - 180 mph.

"If pursuit is made in a northerly direction and broken off at end of three minutes, this would

place the objects sighted about 10 miles north of Pope AFB at 1623 EST.

"Airline distance from point of his observation to Chapel Hill, N.C. (assumed to be the point of next observation) is approximately 47 miles.

"Time elapsed from point of last observation to point of next observation 2 minutes 20 seconds, distance traversed 47 miles. Speed of object 19 plus miles per minute, or roughly 1200 miles per hour.

"Observer recognizes that conjecture is not a suitable basis for inquiry and offers the analysis in paragraph six only as a suggested method of evaluation.

"The undersigned regards the above material to be of a classified nature and will so regard it."[113]

Of all the odd things being reported in the Oak Ridge area at this time the most "saucer-like" was the object seen by an Atomic Energy Commission patrol. In the contents of an AEC Incident Report it states:

"On October 16, 1950, at approximately 2:55 p.m., Trooper Isabell stopped us at this installation and showed us an object in the north that was travelling toward the northwest. It looked to be about 2,000 feet in the air and a white-silverish looking color, rotating in a counter clockwise manner. It was round in shape and going in a rather fast motion. This object was at a high altitude and seemed to come in sight and then disappear. It looked about the size of a ball and round at every angle we looked at it."[114]

Two men, L. Clark and a H. Briggs, gave the above testimony.

Certainly there was an abundance of excellent reasons for a renewal of an official investigation of UFO's. These reasons were: reports by military personnel, apparent photographic evidence, strange radar returns, and a "pattern."

The "pattern."

Repeated reports of UFO's over restricted areas, particularly atomic installations, made the High Command nervous. This concern extended to the FBI even though by October 1950, evidence to indicate that the UFO's were Russian was lacking. After yet another UFO report of a UFO over Oak Ridge on October 16, 1950, the Bureau drew up a chronological summary of the unexplained aerial activity over Oak Ridge. The FBI conducted a check of the background of UFO witnesses who might have been rumor-mongers:

"...the most reliable sources available were utilized in the compilation of this report, the employment records and the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports concerning the witnesses were inspected to ascertain their reliability, integrity, and loyalty to the United States Government.

"The opinions of the officials of the Security Division, AED, Oak Ridge, AEC Security Patrol, Oak Ridge, FBI, Knoxville; Air Force Radar and Fighter Squadrons, Knoxville; and the OSI, Knoxville, Tennessee, fail to evolve an adequate explanation..."[115]

Moreover, going into detail, the summary said:

"...the possibilities of practical jokers, mass hysteria, balloons of any description, flights of birds (with or without cobwebs or other objects attached), falling kites, objects thrown from the ground, windblown objects, insanity, and many other natural happenings have been rejected because of the detailed, similar descriptions of the objects seen by different persons; and because of the impossibility."[116]

"Reinstated."

An FBI agent discussed the UFO situation with Major General Joseph Carroll of the OSI on October 16th and we can cull a very important fact from the exchange which was the reinstatement of UFO investigation at Wright Field. The FBI agent reported:

"He [General Carroll] stated that the Air Force program for investigating reports concerning flying saucers, etc., has been reinstated at Wright Field and that any pertinent information of interest coming to his attention will be furnished to the Bureau."[117]

At Holloman AFB in New Mexico, after establishing an arrangement with military pilots, civilian pilots were asked by the project TWINKLE team to aid in the hunt for UFO's.

A conference was held on October 16th between Lt. Albert of Holloman AFB and a Mr. Harley of Northrop Aircraft, Inc., and civilian pilots of that company to work out such assistance as they could render inasmuch as those pilots were flying in the Holloman area constantly. This idea was pursued since very little results had been achieved from other sources since September.[118]

October 16th elsewhere.

Across the ocean our English friends were having their own UFO flap.

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: November 9, 1950

FROM : SAC, NEW HAVEN

SUBJECT: FLYING DISCS
[redacted] INFORMANT

The following is being brought to the attention of the Bureau so that it may be referred to the Department of the Air Force in connection with instructions set forth in SAC Letter No. 38, Series 1949, dated March 25, 1949.

[redacted] of the Chemical and Physical Laboratories of the Winchester Repeating Arms Co., 275 Winchester Avenue, New Haven, was interviewed in connection with other official business and furnished the following information:

He advised that on Friday, October 20, 1950, he and his wife and daughter, who reside at [redacted] Edgewood Avenue, New Haven, went out of the back door of their home to the back yard at approximately 6:15 P.M. His little daughter called his attention to a star in the sky that was moving and [redacted] noted a sphere-like object directly overhead which gave a steady golden orange glow. He stated that this object was very high between ten to twenty thousan feet, possibly higher. The glow given off was very steady and not blinking and the whole sphere itself glowed in about the same consistency. He witness this object for approximately twenty seconds during which time it traveled in a westerly direction toward New York City and then when [redacted] believed that possibly it was near or over New York City, it then veered in a southerly direction as if crossing Long Island or possibly in such a direction that i might have been traveling over Long Island. He lost sight of this object a it disappeared behind trees in his vicinity. He advised that as to the size of the object, it was approximately ten times the diameter of Venus, which was shining very brightly that night. He states it was a very clear night and that all the stars in the sky were twinkling as compared to the steadiness of the glow given off by this object. He advised that the object did not appear to diminish in size as it traveled farther away from him but appeared to maintain about the same size as when he first noticed it directly overhead. The same steady orange glow persisted during the entire time that he witnessed it. Although this object was actually cut from his sight by nearby trees, [redacted] states that it was so far away from him any way that he probably would have lost sight of it very shortly due to distance had the trees not intervened. The object made no sound whatsoever

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One of the few UFO reports found in FBI files

Reports of mysterious lights in the sky were made at Brockworth and Gloucester City, England, October 16th. The London Times printed the stories but it also made a point to print the remarks of Astronomer Royal Sir Harold Spencer Jones, who humorously stated to a meeting of the Natural History Society he was still impatiently waiting for a flying saucer to land and for "little men" to disembark.[119]

The Scots People Journal of October 21st published a flying saucer sighting made on the north shore of Lock Ness in Scotland.

October 22nd Manchester Guardian referred to a sighting made in the Manchester area, while on the following day the N.N. Mail cited a witness in Edinburgh, Scotland.

While the American Associated Press carried no word of English reports, it did note that a sighting had been made "in the middle of France" on October 22nd.

Elsewhere a hovering "blue light" was noticed in the sky over Anchorage, Alaska, on October 18th; and 24 hours later another UFO report was made in Wyoming.

"There's one of those things you keep reading about!"

L. Mandrick was driving a carload of oil-field workers to work and was on a road outside of Beryl Springs, Wyoming and, being the first to see the object, shouted to his companions. The four other men in the car looked upward and saw a silver saucer-shaped object about 15 feet across that suddenly swooped down and began to follow their vehicle. The UFO approached within 300 feet, but as the wintesses' car slowed to a stop, the saucer sped away. There had been an Air Force plane in the sky at the time and Mandrich entertained the idea that the discs were under remote control by the military.[120]

Oak Ridge again. Army Intelligence reported:

> "At 1655 hours, on 20 October 1950, Mr. Larry P. Riordan, AEC Badge No. 522, Superintendent of Security, at X-10 in the 'Control Zone' at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, while en route from X-10 to the Oak Ridge residential area, on Benton Valley Road, saw an object in the sky which appeared to be directly over the University of Tennessee Agricultural Research Farm. This object gave the general appearance of an aerial balloon which had lost its 'basket.' In other words, the object was generally round; appeared to come together at the bottom in wrinkles (rather indistinct), and something was hanging below. The balloon was described as being from eight to ten feet long; of a lead pipe or gunmetal color; and seemed to be approximately ¼ mile from the observer, at a

30 degree elevation above the horizon. The object was apparently stationary but since the observer was in a moving vehicle, he did not verify that it was stationary. As the vehicle in which he was traveling changed position, and went around a curve, Mr. Riordan noticed that this object appeared to be thinner. He concludes that by reason of his changing position, or the object changing its altitude, he observed another angle of the object which appeared to be thinner than upon his first sighting."[121]

Up north in Canada on October 21st:

"Indians at the Hudson Bay Company post at Nemaska reported seeing what appeared to be a large airplane accompanied by a smaller one which they said 'stood still in the sky.'

"Authorities said the smaller object may have been a helicopter. They added that none of Canadian registry was known to have been operating in that area."[122]

Near Toronto in the vicinity of James Bay, a "stationary red light" was seen. And at Timmins, Ontario, in a snowstorm a "brilliant little sun" was witnessed. Some said it was like a "shiny tear drop shooting from east to west."[123]

"Circular with a cone-shaped blue flame."

The Air Attache at the American Embassy, Havana, Cuba, contacted Lt. General Quesada of Air Force Intelligence about a Cuba incident in compliance with instructions issued by Air Force Intelligence on September 8th concerning information on "unconventional aircraft." Something was observed in October by a group of Cubans and the principle witness was well known to American military representatives as a trustworthy source. The essential part of the Air Attache report is given in paragraphs 2 and 3:

"2. A circular object estimated to have been slightly larger than a DC-3 aircraft, highly polished, aluminum color with a cone shaped blue flame protruding from the rear for a distance of from 8 to 10 times the diameter of the object. The flame was described as similar to the flame from an acetylene torch, and having a reddish tint on the outer border of the flame.

"3. This object was sighted by Mr. ---- (deleted), a prominent and wealthy Cuban, who was piloting his own Beechcraft Bonanza between two of his sugar properties in Camaguey province (Central) Cuba. With Mr. ---- (deleted) as

passengers were Mr. Roy Carver, an engineer, and pilot; and two additional Cuban engineers. All four of these reliable men saw the object very distinctly, in fact it passed their right wing, slightly above their cruising altitude of 5,500 feet and proceeded at terrific speed (estimated faster than sound) and disappeared in a cloud formation in approximately 3 seconds time. The object was positively traveling horizontally on a course of approximately 90 degrees. The object was estimated by the four observers to be circular in shape with a diameter of approximately 70 to 80 feet. The time of sighting was 0035Z hours on 21 October 1950.[124]

"Fail to evolve an adequate explanation."

Army Intelligence report of October 21st:

"The opinions of the officials of the Security Division, AEC, Oak Ridge; Security Branch, NEPA Division, Oak Ridge; AEC Security Patrol, Oak Ridge; FBI, Knoxville; Air Force Radar and Fighter Squadrons, Knoxville; and the OSI, Knoxville, Tennessee, fail to evolve an adequate explanation."[125]

"The fantastic is generally rejected."

In a summary of information the Army experts declared:

"The trend of opinion seem to follow three patterns of thought. The first is that the objects are a physical phenomenon which have a scientific explanation; the second is that the objects are experimental objects from an undetermined source guided by electronics; and the third is similar to the second except that an intended demoralization or harassement is involved. The fantastic is generally rejected."[126]

Furthermore:

"These objects have apparently followed only two patterns. The first is that they were sighted at the same hour on two consecutive days and the second is that the time of flight is either to or from the northeast and southwest, which directions parallel the terrain ridges in this locality."[127]

Army Intelligence had the following to add to its records of strange events at Oak Ridge:

"On 23 October 1950, at 1630 hours, Mr. F. J. Miller at the X-10 plant, Oak Ridge, Tennessee,

FLYING SAUCERS—I

Nov. 16, 1950 Paper Unknown

Air Force Insists Imagination, Reflections Have Tricked Public

By BOB CONSIDINE
International News Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Nov. 16.—"I've been a lot of flying saucers," calmly remarked Col. Harold E. Watson, the Air Force's foremost authority on the controversial subject.

"Plenty of them," the intelligence chief of Wright Air Force Base's Air Materiel Command went on, with the weariness of a man who has told a story too often. "And I've chased after them in the Air Force's fastest propeller-driven plane, the F-51. Caught them, too.

"And every single saucer turned out to be the sun shining off the wing or body of a distant DC-4, or a jet, or a weather balloon, or it was a reflection off a water-tank or something else that is readily explainable.

"I don't know what it takes to convince the public, but there are no such things as flying saucers. They don't exist. They just don't exist!"

"Seasonal Hallucination"

We asked how he accounted for the increasing number of persons who report their alleged observation of objects of nonastronomical origin.

"We are going through a seasonal hallucination," Col. Watson explained. "We've kept a careful check on these periods of mass illusion. They reach peaks shortly after some unusual stir in the saucer field. The two articles that appeared in True Magazine caused jumps on the graph. Henry J. Taylor's broadcast caused another.

"The most recent jump was the result of Frank Scully's book, 'Behind the Flying Saucers,' which made me ill after 15 pages. The articles you plan to write will cause still another outbreak of saucer stories—even though you reverse the field and tell people the absolute truth: That it's a lot of nonsense."

Blames Fatigue for Fliers' Stories

Col. Watson declared with emphasis that at the end of nearly every flying-saucer report that can be tracked down stands a crackpot, a religious fanatic, a publicity hound or a malicious practical joker.

Pranksters have made "saucers" and then burned them while others have made photographs of trash-can lids twirling into the air or of odd home-made devices.

We asked him to explain the accounts of mysterious objects by responsible airline pilots.

"Fatigue, I'd say," he replied, "and the power of suggestion. And the optical tricks that windshields can play on an airman—especially at night. I'm not questioning the integrity of these men, or of the occasional hostess or passenger who has 'corroborated' their testimony. But the most careful inquiry into their stories has produced not a shred of real supporting evidence.

Has No "Saucers" or Parts

"I don't know how to make it plainer than this: The Air Force has in its possession no flying saucers, or parts of flying saucers. It has no bodies of 'little men,' nor any samples of the so-called clothes these imaginary creatures wore. It has investigated hundreds of rumors without finding an iota of responsible supporting testimony or a shred of evidence.

"This planet is not being spied upon by space-creatures, nor has any potential earth enemy sent observation ships against us. No branch of the armed forces has an aircraft or missile resembling the structure or alleged performance of a flying saucer."

One of the feeble straws usually reached for by the true believer is the strange death of Capt. Thomas F. Mantell Jr. The true believers refuse to accept the Air Force's assay of the tragedy, which took place near Ft. Knox Jan. 7, 1948.

Verified the Report

Capt. Mantell and two other pilots were flying F-51s to Louisville early that afternoon when State Police notified Ft. Knox that a round object, estimated to be 250 feet in diameter, was headed over the vast gold reserve.

Several observers at the nearby Godman Air Force Base verified the report. The base commander, on learning that three F-51s were in the vicinity, at good altitude, asked them to take a look.

During the next half hour Mantell sent several messages back to the control tower. Whatever it was, he reported, it was climbing at what he estimated as 360 MPH. It looked metallic, he said, and was "tremendous."

The three F-51s climbed to 18,000 feet where, in broken clouds, Mantell was lost sight of by the other two, who dropped back to Godman.

Mantell Crash Still a Mystery

The last word from Mantell, whose craft was not equipped with oxygen tanks, to the tower was that the "thing" was still climbing as far as his F-51 and that if he could not close in on it by the time he reached 20,000 feet he'd give up.

Mantell's body and the wreckage of his plane were found a short time later near Ft. Knox—the wreckage strewn over an area a half mile.

To this day, no one knows exactly why Mantell crashed.

Col. Watson told me that the only plausible explanation about the crash itself was that Mantell's plane went into a spin or power dive with an unconscious or dead man at the controls.

Flying Saucers Reported Over New H-Bomb Site

ELLENTON, S. C., Dec. 2—(UP).—Were flying saucers spying on the proposed site of the nation's first hydrogen bomb plant last night?

Four persons told today of seeing a strange, brilliantly lighted object in the sky about 10:45 p. m. It dipped up and down and flashed back and forth for about 10 minutes before it flew out of sight, one eye-witness said.

This town is in the midst of the vast tract which the Atomic Energy Commission has selected for the site of the multi-million-dollar H-bomb plant which will be under construction by early 1951.

The Rev. R. D. Parkinson, a Baptist minister, said Golphin Dunbar, a neighbor, first spotted the "saucer" and called him to look at it. "It looked like a great, big, white star with red lights and moved around back and forth and up and down" over the town, Dunbar said.

"Object" Reported Over Atom Project

DENVER, Oct. 7 (UP).—A construction worker at Los Alamos, N. M., has reported that a strange "blinking object" soared over a highly restricted area of the big atomic energy center.

Lee Robinson of the Armex Construction Co. sent the Denver Post a copy of a mimeographed form which he used to report the object to the Atomic Energy Commission. Robinson said it "was not a balloon or a conventional type of aircraft."

Pilot Reports Near-Collision—

Flying Saucers Once More Whir Across Nation's Skies

Oct 6 1950

By International News Service

Flying saucers are whirring over the nation again.

Reports of speeding discs have come in the past two days from California, where an airline pilot said his plane narrowly missed a collision with one, from a Montana baseball manager, and from a Colorado jeweler.

Persons in Chicago were puzzled yesterday by several mile-long white streaks in the sky.

And scientists are studying reports of the second large meteor seen over St. Louis in the past 16 days.

Capt. Cecil Hardin, a pilot of a California Central Airlines plane, reported by radio that a flying disc type of aircraft approached his plane last night at a very high rate of speed. Then, when a short distance away, Hardin added, the disc peeled off and passed 500 feet under his airliner.

In his report Hardin related:

"It appeared to be a wing. It had no fuselage. It looked like a thick band of light from tip to tip with what appeared to be eight lights of blue flame across it."

The craft was about the size of a DC-3, he said. The DC-3 is a twin engine, 21-passenger plane with a wingspread of approximately 85 feet.

Authorities at the Lockheed terminal said there was little chance that the ship was a Northrop flying wing on an experimental flight.

In Colorado Springs, the jeweler, W. D. Campbell, a World War I artillery observer and ex-orderly for President Truman, claimed he spotted "15 or 20 flying saucers milling like birds" in the area yesterday.

Campbell estimated the altitude of the objects at about 12,000 feet and said they disappeared westward ovr the mountains.

"They were too large for birds and were not airplanes," the jeweler insisted.

In Great Falls, Mont., Nick Mariana, a minor league baseball team manager, disclosed that he took color movies of two flying discs last Aug. 15.

Mariana said the film was turned over to an investigator for the Air Force Technical Command in that city.

The white streak seen in the sky over Chicago was said by officials at O'Hare International Airport to have been a vapor trail from a jet plane flying at 3,500 feet.

The flash of the meteor in the St. Louis area was rported by numerous persons who said they saw it at twilight Wednesday.

Richmond, Ind., Wednesday, Oct. 4, 1950

Local Residents Report Seeing Strange "Metallic" Object In Western Skies

Richmond residents reported seeing a strange flying object with a "metallic look" Tuesday evening.

Motorists stopped to look at it. A policeman directing traffic peered into the west. But none could positively say that what he saw was a "flying saucer."

From all reports the object appeared in the west just at sundown. It was described as being oblong in shape, tapering down to points at both ends.

Ed White, a Palladium-Item reporter, said he saw the object, "bigger than a meteor," come up over a bank of clouds. It drifted northward for about 10 minutes, then went straight up and finally faded out of sight.

None of the persons who saw it thought it was traveling at any great speed.

"It was thick in the middle and tapered at the ends," White reported. He described it as a long streak of orange fire, first glowing brightly and then becoming dim. He said the upper tip of the object was marked by a "red ball."

Miss Edwina Morrow of Chester pike saw the object before 6 p. m. as she and her sister were driving from Middleboro to Richmond. Their observations were the same as White's. They parked their auto on the Middleboro pike and watched the phenomenon for about 15 minutes.

Seek 'Object' Along Lake

Montague Michigan Oct 16, 1950

Police Action Follows Montague Man's Story

Oct. 16, 1950

Montague—State police and the civil aeronautics administration Saturday searched lakeside areas near the Ottawa-Muskegon county line for a "big orange-colored object" reported by a Montague businessman.

Otto Ernst said he and his five children saw the flaming crescent-shaped object fall in or near Lake Michigan early Saturday.

An unidentified Dalton township, Muskegon county, man also reported seeing "a large plane or dirigible" near the lakeshore about midnight Friday.

The Muskegon coast guard station had two boats out for about seven hours in the area of the lake where the "object" was reported, but failed to discover any oil slick or evidence of debris. Coast guard officials said the boats would stand by until more information was available.

Two Muskegon pilots in planes also entered the search.

Ernst said he saw the huge brightly-colored "banana" above a dune near the county line and called the children's attention to it. When it disappeared from view behind the dune the six left the car to see a bright glow "like a campfire" out in the lake. He said he saw no flash and heard no noise.

Ernst said he hesitated about reporting the phenomenon because of the ridicule which often greeted "saucer" stories, but changed his mind because he thought if a plane were down his information would aid the coast guard in a lake search.

No planes had been reported overdue Saturday in Michigan or in Milwaukee, 75 miles across the lake.

Grand Rapids Michigan Press

'Flying Sausage' Puzzles Britain

11-8-50

LONDON—(AP)—The air ministry has put on file for "serious study" reports that a "flying sausage" was spotted over Barrow-on-Furness.

Witnesses said it looked like a cross between a submarine and a barrage balloon and had a transparent center.

SUNDAY EXPRESS
(England) Dec. 12, 1950

Not a saucer, not a disc, but a tadpole

TWO HUNDRED Rugby Union fans at Towyn, near Rhyl, stopped watching the 30 players.

The 30 players stopped watching the ball.

The referee stopped the game.

Four hundred and sixty-two eyes switched skywards.

What did they see? A "flying tadpole." That is how spectators described a bright object speeding over the ground, trailing sparks.

Police theory last night "A yellow training plane.

R.A.F. comment: "Not one of ours."

PAPER UNKNOWN Sept 1950

Centralia Is Noted In Book On Nation's Flying Saucers

Washington

(One of the nation's newest books just released for publication concerns the internationally-known "flying saucers" of the United States. The latest book is Frank Scully's "Behind the Flying Saucers." The review of the volume appears here by Lorna Dysart Smith of San Jose, Calif. She is a native daughter of Centralia and a sister of Lloyd Dysart, longtime Centralia attorney.)

By LORNA DYSART SMITH

What have you read about flying saucers? Do they interest you? Have you seen one? The subject was just about the last one in this world (or out of the world) which I had imagined would hold me spellbound until I read Frank Scully's "Behind the Flying Saucers."

I think you will agree the book is interesting. Centralia is mentioned in it several times.

Paul Jordan-Smith devotes a column and a half of the Los Angeles Times book section of September 3 in praise of the book, the excitement and arguments it is bound to create. Roy Gibbons devotes a column in the Chicago Sunday Tribune as of September 10 telling his readers how awful the book is. His claim of "a fairy tale" is going to create arguments, for the last section of the book is devoted to press reports from over the world, on reports of folks who have seen flying saucers. If the book is just a fairy tale, where does that put the press? We feel inclined to agree with Paul Jordan-Smith, who concludes — "Well, believe it or not, it is a good story, and Scully makes the most of it, to the end that no reader will lack for either excitement or argument."

Frank Scully is known and loved for his best seller "Fun in Bed," in four volumes. Having spent much of his own life in bed, with a leg amputated following an accident in college football, and one lung just about not there, after tuberculosis had its day, he has amazed the world with his ability to make folks smile, whether in bed or out of bed. This most recent book on "Saucers" is not a book of humor. A newspaper man, primarily, (his weekly column Scully's Scrapbook appears in N. Y. Variety) he has given a newspaperman's report on flying saucers. Interviewing scientists, military men, laymen, he has reported their stories. It is up to the reader to accept what he wishes to accept, or, what he finds himself forced to accept whether he wishes to or not: Scully reports in an able manner.

Mystery Sphere Discovered By Hunters, Baffles Experts

Dec. 18/1950 Paper Unknown

Albuquerque, N. M., Dec. 18 (AP)—The University of New Mexico today disclosed that a mysterious 18-inch sphere was found by deer hunters south of here nearly a month ago and still has not been identified.

The object, with its accessories, has the experts stumped.

Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, head of the Institute of Meteorites at the university, cannot explain the find. Nor can numerous other agencies who have inspected it.

The sphere came to Dr. LaPaz in connection with his recent investigation of fireballs and meteorites.

In the find are the sphere—built of light metal apparently duralumium, and weighing seven pounds two ounces; an object resembling a large flower pot built of plastic imbedded with nylon fibers; a cheap alarm clock equipped with an expensive micro switch, and three packages of photographic film used in nuclear research.

The materials are seemingly American-made. The film is stamped with the name of a London, Eng., firm but is also handled by an American firm.

Dr. LaPaz will return tomorrow to the spot in the Capitan Mountains 130 airline miles southeast of Albuquerque where the objects were found. At the same time he made public the previously-secret discovery in hopes a new clue would turn up.

The discovery was turned in to the institute on November 23d.

Dr. LaPaz has two theories:

1—That the sphere and its equipment were ejected from a guided missile.

2—That they were carried aloft by a very large balloon.

On the film packs is the date November 14, 1949, marked as the date of manufacture by Ilford Limited, London, England. Underneath that date is the number 29 written in ink with a ditto mark under the November. Experts speculate that the sphere was sent aloft November 29, 1949.

Dr. LaPaz points out that only a few days after that date he got and investigated two reports from persons who said they saw green fireballs—or meteorites—in the general area where the latest discovery was made. Those reports were made on December 8th and December 15th in 1949.

Could "the thing" be a hoax? Dr. LaPaz believes not.

"You could hardly find a place to leave a hoax where it would be less likely to be found," he declared.

SUNDAY EXPRESS

OCTOBER 8, 1950

IS ANOTHER WORLD WATCHING US?

FOR SEVERAL YEARS WATCHERS ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE BEEN REPORTING STRANGE THINGS IN THE SKIES.

These have been grouped generally under the description "Flying Saucers," a name given because one of the group appears to be disc-shaped.

But the objects vary greatly. While some are merely lights which behave most strangely, others are flying tubes lit with the coolest light humans have ever seen.

And while many seem to be so small that no living thing resembling a human being could possibly be inside them, others are of a tremendous size and capable of a fantastic yet higher speed than any flying machines our have ever dreamed of.

What is the mystery of these fascinating sky apparitions?

Is another world watching us?

Which world could it be?

As the watchers cannot possibly be the human beings what form could they take?

Have they an intelligence higher than ours and are they controllers of power far beyond our knowledge?

Who are they watching us? Are they benign or hostile to us?

Some months ago the Sunday Express commissioned GERALD HEARD, who has a world reputation as a science philosopher and writer, to study the problem and report.

Gerald Heard and a team of [illegible] has investigated and tested every report made on these appearances and visitations. He has weighed carefully the evidence and now he is in a position to report.

His report, which will be published exclusively in the Sunday Express on consecutive Sundays, that week starts by sifting down the human facts.

Then he considers them a possibility of extraterrestrial origin on the source of the phenomena and their motives, or those who seem there, and on what they must do for

We who people the earth have never faced a more tremendous problem. And Gerald Heard's report goes to will carrie [illegible], and [illegible] every reader.

Who?... What?... Why?

by GERALD HEARD

Author of 'The Ascent of Humanity' 'The Surprising World' and many other authoritative works on the mystery of the universe.

THIS report covers just over three years—from midsummer 1947 to autumn 1950.

It is more [illegible] supply reasonable details [illegible] something has been happening in the sky.

Further [illegible] what has been seen in [illegible] Flying machines. But some are clearly [illegible]

[illegible] the world.

NEWS, San Francisco, CA
Nov. 22, 1950

Big 'Flying Cigar' Reported Sighted Near Atomic Plant

PASCO, Wash., Nov. 22.—Dozens of excited residents reported today they watched a shiny "cigar shaped" flying object in the vicinity of the Hanford atomic plant near sundown yesterday. But atomic and military authorities maintained they had "no reports" of anything irregular.

Perry Torbergsen, managing editor of The Columbia Basin News, and Jack Anderson, his city editor, were among those who said they watched the object for eight minutes.

"It was shaped like a cigar and glistened brightly," Mr. Torbergsen said. "Anderson, myself and everybody on Pasco's downtown streets watched it for a full eight minutes before it disappeared in its southwesterly course."

But Col. Seth L. Weld Jr., commanding officer of the anti-aircraft unit stationed at the atomic plant, said "nothing irregular" was reported.

N. D. Sturgis, Atomic Energy Commission security assistant at Hanford, declared: "I received no word, official or otherwise, regarding any unidentified object."

Mr. Anderson said: "We have names of at least 25 persons who saw it. Nearly everyone I talked to seemed to agree that it stopped and hung in the air. All seemed to describe it as a stick of light."

Nov. 10, 1950 – Paper Unknown

New Saucer Mystery

1950

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Nov. 11 (Reuters) — Add this to the bulging dossier of flying saucer reports: Inhabitants of Caruaru, a town in Northern Argentina, claimed to have seen a "large round object of transparent green" circling over their communities.

England
DAILY MAIL
November 11, 1950

It's twinkle twinkle — little saucer

THREE girls walking along the Preston - Lancaster main road saw what they think might have been a flying saucer.

Said Miss Doris Wade, of Meadow-street, Preston: "It was about 4.15 p.m. on Sunday. We saw what looked like a very bright star in the east.

"It moved towards us in a north-westerly direction, and as it steadily came nearer it took on an oval shape and looked quite big.

"It seemed to be luminous and was very bright. We watched it for quite a time until it disappeared into the clouds.

"It was most definitely not an aeroplane and it travelled much slower than a plane would have done."

*

Miss Wade's friends, Miss Lilian Spencer and Miss Thirza Walkerdine gave a similar description of it.

A few hundred yards from where the girls claim they saw the object is the Ministry of Civil Aviation air traffic control station at Barton Hall.

An Air Ministry meteorological forecaster pointed out that it was a common error for people to speak of something travelling in a certain direction when they really meant that it was coming from that direction.

If that was the case here, it was possible that the object could have been a meteorological balloon blown over from Northern Ireland.

The sun reflecting from its surface could make it look like a "very bright star."

saw an object generally referred to as 'flying saucer.' He stated that this object was at an altitude of approximately 1000 feet."[128]

Unfortunately nothing more is given on this case in official records.

Still no luck:

"On 24 October 1950, at 1823 hours, several small, slow targets were seen on the radar screen at the Knoxville Airport Radar Site. These targets appeared in the southeast sector of the 'Restricted Flying Zone' and over the city of Oak Ridge. These targets moved from the city area to and along the east boundary of the area. At 1826 hours, the fighter aircraft was 'scrambled' and proceeded to the area where it was vectored among the targets but the pilot reported no visual contact with said targets.[129]

Sky show over Oak Ridge.

Army Intelligence records tell us:

"At 1845 hours, on 24 October 1950, Mr. William B. Fry, Assistant Chief of Security, NEPA Division, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, while attending a drive-in theater with his wife and child, at Oak Ridge, noticed an object in the sky NNW of his position, at a 30 to 40 degree elevation. This object was moving gently in a horizontal plane, back and forth, within 30 degrees of his line of sight. This object emitted a glow, varying in color from red to green, to blue-green, to blue and to orange. The variations were checked on the vertical window post of Mr. Fry's wife. The attention of another observer, the Projectionist at the drive-in theater, was also called to the object and verification of this sighting was made. The object disappeared from his sight at 1920 hours.

"At 1855 hours, on 24 October 1950, an Air Force Major, Lawrence Ballweg, NEPA Division, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, also saw from his residence an object which he described similarly. The object disappeared from the sight of Mr. Ballweg at 1920 hours, which coincides with the time of disappearance of the object from Mr. Fry's sight."[130]

More "funny" targets.

"At 1920 hours the targets disappeared from the radar screen and the fighter was vectored toward another target believed to be one of three

aircraft en route from Andrews Field to Stewart Field. Note: 1920 hours is also the time that the object sighted by Mr. Fry and Major Ballweg disappeared from their view."[131]

"Saying nothing."

The sighting of the puzzling "polywog" near Soloway Gate, Oak Ridge, October 13th leaked to the press. The Clinton Courier News, on October 26th, printed something about the lone civilian witness, John Moneymaker:

> "Moneymaker isn't talking, however. His family isn't talking. In fact, the whole neighborhood is making like a bunch of professional clams. Other than to say he saw 'something,' he is saying nothing. His family also says he saw 'something,' but nothing more. The neighbors just say nothing.
>
> "This modesty of Moneymaker, his family and his neighbors is reportedly the result of a visit one night recently from several species of intelligence officers, from heaven knows where."[132]

On October 30th, more lights, this time intensely blue-colored balls of light, zoomed over Denon, England.[133] Not much of a UFO report, but near Paignton, England, a Mr. A. W. Bearne was startled by a spindle-shaped object diving out of the sky and leveling off. When it reached a horizontal position, a pair of metallic blue discs suddenly appeared near the strange tube. The objects then flew away together toward Brixham.[134] Also, reports from Exmoor, England, told of farmers sighting UFO's that resembled ones seen over America. Discs spewing blue-white wakes were said to have approached the English coast coming from the direction of the Irish Sea.[135] Two days later something strange in the sky was reported over Bexleyheagh.

Journalist Robert Moskin learned that in October at Wright Field:

> "...two intelligence men in the Unconventional Aircraft Group, Aircraft and Propulsion Section, Technical Analysis Division of the Air Technical Intelligence Command, discovered that they had nearly 800 reports gathered in their files--more than twice the number of hand when the 1949 report [the GRUDGE report] was written. Interest and activity spurted forward."[136]

"Flying Sausage."

At Heathrow, England, four employees of Pan American Airways watched as something jetted overhead at an estimated

1,000 miles per hour. The fleeting impression received by the four witnesses was that the thing was a light colored, elongated object spurting a bluish flame. The foregoing, occurring on November 5th, was followed two days later by a smiliar incident.[137]

The New York Times mentions the same or a smiliar sighting:

> "London, November 7 -- A mysterious 'flying sausage' was reported over the northwest coast of England today at Barrow in Furness. Two men who said they had seen the object described it as something like a submarine, 150 to 200 feet long. There was no sound of motors."[138]

Returning to the U.S. we find fear in Dixie:

November 6th.

"There's ghosts done come after me right in the broad open daylight!"

At a little river farm of C. S. Peyton some six miles southwest of Jonesville, Louisiana, at 1:45 in the afternoon, the family cook had just left the farmhouse after washing up and was walking near the shed that housed the tractor when she suddenly noticed some "things" hovering just above the structure. The cook, July Bell, saw two long and round objects shaped like cigars. Terrified, Miss Bell dashed back into Payton house yelling: "There's ghosts done come after me right in the broad open daylight. They's hovering right out there over the tractor shed!"[139]

The shouting sent six members of the Peyton family spilling out in the yard. The objects by then had risen to a height of 50 feet in the air. The head of family, E. Y. Peyton, said the objects were: "...so bright and shiny we couldn't tell anything about its shape or size."[140] The Peytons watched as the objects moved away toward the northwest leaving behind trails of vapor.

November 7th.

"We don't dare say."

A "Spot Intelligence Report" filed by the Air Force's Office of Special Investigation, District #9, passed on to higher headquarters a number of UFO reports that had appeared in the press in the New Orleans, Louisiana area.

Lt. Colonel John C. McLendon, the officer in charge of the OSI unit stationed at New Orleans, also felt that higher headquarters might be interested in an editorial that had appeared in an October 17th issue of a New Orleans newspaper, an editorial that expressed wonder over the quality of UFO sightings

being reported. The Colonel penned that the newspaper editor:

> "...speculated concerning the sighting on the proceeding Sunday of four 'saucers' in formation by Miami Airlines, Inc., pilot George Woodward and William Bardsley. The editorial commented on the claims of sightings last February by Commander Robert B. McLaughlin, USN Missile Expert..."[141]

The Colonel underscored the editor's conclusions. The newspaperman's conclusion went: "We hesitate to question the expert opinion of trained aerial observers and airplane pilots. In fact, we don't dare say what we believe about flying saucers."[142]

"Encounter with strange phenomena while night flying."

One is reminded of the famous Gorman dogfight of October 1948, and how it was explained as a lighted weather balloon, as one reads of an encounter in the air over Lakehurst, New Jersey, on November 7, 1950. And to think the Gorman case gets all the press notice.

The pilot filed this report:

> "While on a routine night flight radar navigation flight from NAS Atlantic City on the night of 7 November 1950, the following incident took place. I was flying an AD-4Q, returning from seaward, and homing in on NAS, Lakehurst. As we approached Lakehurst at approximately 3,500 feet, I became aware of a single steady white light to my starboard about five miles, which I judged to be another aircraft's fuselage light. This light was slightly above me, at about 4,000 feet and moving in a southeasterly direction at approximately my airspeed or slightly greater. Because of the steady light, I believed this was another military aircraft operating from Lakehurst or Atlantic City and instructed my crewmen to switch our radar to 'intercept' so we could test out this part of our gear before returning to base. The time was about 1915, as we were due to land at 1930. Then I pulled up in a slight climbing turn in order to get on this object's tail. The visibility was extremely excellent with no overcast, and with all the stars and planets showing brightly. It was no effort to discern the motion of this object's course, it turned a little more southerly and seemed to settle down and I presumed I was directly behind it, still somewhat lower. In less time than it takes to tell, this light, without

making any kind of reversal turn, bore down on me in a slight dive, passing directly over my canopy, at an incredible speed, about 100 to 200 feet above. Puzzled at this, my first reaction was that we had originally met head on, and that this was some aircraft without running lights and that it had been a close miss for both of us. Informing my crewmen of what took place, he disregarded his radar operation and proceeded to witness the following events. I then pulled into a tight 'flipper' reversed turn in order to see this light again. As before, it was still slightly higher than I, and this time I was positive we were on his tail. Pushing to normal rated power and climbing, I attempted to hold the light in front of me, this object made another head on pass, veering slightly port and below so that my crewman could see it too. Still nothing but a single white light, close to 10 to 12 inches in diameter, it moved with fantastic speed. Since we were close aboard Navy Lakehurst, about five miles north, I tried contacting their tower twice on 142.74 mcs. with no response. Still engaging in this cat and mouse tag game with this light, and recalling that our own squardon had some jets and other AD's airborne, I switched to our squadron common frequency, and requested assistance from any 'confine' aircraft in the vicinity. The Commanding Officer and his wing man in two F9F's answered, and set course for Lakehurst. In the meanwhile, after five to six passes, this object and I got into a port orbit. I frequently checked my instruments for altitude and engine limitations, and flew in a 60 degree climbing port bank, indicating 130-135 kts. This light continued to turn about me in wider climbing turns, making about two orbits to my one. At 11,500 feet I abandoned the chase and simply orbited in order to keep the object in sight. When the Commanding Officer reported over McGuire AFB at 14,000 feet, I turned my lights from 'Dim' to 'Bright,' reporting we were still in a port orbit, but I estimated the object's height at about 18,000 feet still climbing in a wide orbit and growing dimmer. By the time they arrived over me, the object still appeared, though faint, at about 25,000 feet. All this took place in a period of 25 to 30 minutes..."[143]

The pilot commented:

"Having had experience with jets against conventional in 'Dog Fights,' I have a good idea of their speed, but this object in the encounter described previously was making at least twice that speed, or approximately 800 kts. While it was passing I tried hard to distinguish a shape or

form of wing or airfoil, but could see nothing but this white light. Pulling up even more after it passed, I tried to see if I could hit its wash or slipstream, but there was none. Only this single steady white that could move with phenomenal speed and maneuverability."[144]

"Thing over London."

U.S. Air Force technicians were manning a radar van at Heston Airdrome some two miles northeast of the London Airport on the morning of November 10th at 0859 when a strange target appeared on the scope. Air Intelligence was notified:

"Visual contact was not made with object. Returns on radar screen permit estimate that object could have been of the order of the size of the B-29 or C-54. Object gave the same returns on the PPI scope and J scope that would have been given by any single aircraft. The speed of the object varied from 30 up to and well in excess of 1,000 m.p.h. statute. In one case the object climbed from 13,000 to 30,000 feet in less than five seconds giving a climbing speed in excess of 1,000 m.p.h. while covering a lateral distance of 3,600 feet in the same period. For the most part, the object traveled at a speed of about 60 m.p.h. In maneuver the object made turns very undulating both vertically and laterally at great speed within very short lateral and vertical distances. In one case the object turned 90 degrees to right from course for 600 yards of travel and then turned 180 degree to left for 200 yards, then 150 degrees right for 300 yards (speed varying from 60 to 120 m.p.h.) and then 110 degrees abruptly left. This maneuver continued for about 70 seconds. In another case the object made 18 abrupt turns of 100 degrees or more in a lateral distance of 2,500 yards. At one time the altitude of the object was so low (around 1,000 feet) that it was lost in the ground clutter. In each case when the object disappeared its speed was so great or its altitude so low as to be outside the limit of capabilities of the automatic circuits of the MPO-2 radar plotting equipment."[145]

The Air Force "strikes back."

The Air Force, in the person of Colonel Harold E. Watson, who was Chief of Intelligence at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio (headquarters for the Air Material Command), gave an interview to newsman Bob Considine of the International News Service on November 12th during which witnesses of UFO's came in for a tongue lashing. People who made UFO reports were denounced as being publicity hounds or comedians.

This outburst had unpleasant consequences. Air Force records state:

> "Shortly after the incident, Considine denounced all who claimed to have seen 'flying objects.' Particular reference was made to Mr. Mariana (of the Great Falls case).
>
> "This bad publicity resulted in the loss as sponsors on nine of the fourteen radio stations for Mr. Mariana's sportscasts. It was nine months before these stations returned to Mr. Mariana's program and this doubtlessly resulted in considerable financial loss to him. At present (9 January 53) Mr. Mariana is in the final stages of a lawsuit against him."[146]

This brings us to the Canadian situation. A Canadian scientist, Wilbert B. Smith, an electronic specialist and geomagnetic engineer, had started collecting UFO news clippings as a hobby but as time passed his interest in the sky mystery grew into something more than a sideline activity.

While in Washington, D.C. as a delegate to a NARB conference, Smith purchased two of the hottest sellers on the American book market, Scully's Behind The Flying Saucers, and Keyhoe's Flying Saucers Are Real. Scully's assertion that the United States had in its possession an alien space ship that operated on magnetic principles was of particular interest to the Canadian scientist. Smith reasoned:

> "It appeared to me that our work in geomagnetics might well be the linkage between our technology and the technology by which the saucers are designed and operated. If it is assumed that our geo-magnetic investigations are in the right direction, the theory of operation of the saucers becomes quite straightforward, with all observed features explained qualitatively and quantitatively."[147]

While Smith was representing Canada at a two week international conference being held at the Pan American Union in Washington, D.C., he sought out Donald Keyhoe who lived in nearby Alexandia, Virginia. When Smith contacted Keyhoe he found the author of the famous saucer book agreeable to a series of discussions about the UFO problem.

Their first meeting was over lunch at a downtown Washington hotel. Smith started out with a sweeping analysis of the UFO mystery. Keyhoe, a man with a remarkable memory and a habit of writing down conversations in a notebook at the end of the day, leaves us with the following version of what Smith and Smith's Canadian colleagues thought about the aerial riddle. According to Keyhoe, Smith said:

> "I'm convinced they're real--that they're machines of some kind. We've weighed three

possibilities. One, they're interplanetary. Second, they're a United States secret device. Third, they're Russian. The last two don't stand up. From the weight of evidence I believe the saucers come from outer space. And I think their appearance is what suddenly increased your government's interest in space travel and an artificial satellite. Judging from our own operations, I'm sure your government also is vitally concerned with learning the secret of propulsion."[148]

Smith had mulled over the UFO problem and had arrived at some tentative conclusions. As his basic premise, Smith envisioned a large parent spaceship in orbit around the Earth that utilized some sort of revolutionary power source, perhaps cosmic rays or atomic fission. This mothership could launch smaller excursion craft for closer scrutiny of the planet's surface which might also include tiny flying discs that performed a reconnaissance function. Keyhoe was in agreement that saucers of a diminutive size might carry television cameras and other recorders that pick up data for later analysis in a laboratory, at a home base or on a mother ship.

During the discussion with Keyhoe, Smith said that the Canadian government had authorized a scientific investigation of the Earth's magnetic field and it was while being employed on this project he and other engineers had noted possible correlations between UFO reports and characteristics displayed by electromagnetism. For example, color changes, he said, reported by UFO witnesses, had a resemblance to corona discharges. Smith posulated that if the metal skin of the discs overheated as the craft moved through the Earth's magnetic field, the color sequence would run red, orange-red, yellow, blue, green, and finally white, with levels; but Smith also felt that saucers operating during the daylight hours would show none of the colors since the glare from the sun would nullify the effect.

Both Keyhoe and Smith shared the belief that the saucers utilized some sort of automatic control mechanism. They envisioned a kind of "robot-analyzer" (a modern day reader can supply a better word: "computer.") that could make almost instantaneous corrections in direction and speed.

Smith also had a feeling he was on the right track for another reason. From what he knew about the strange flying objects, they made very little noise and that fact agreed with his theory of a silent magnetic power drive.

Musing Smith's ideas, Keyhoe recalled to mind one 1950 case in particular that had occurred at Lewisburg, West Virginia. The Lewisburg report went:

"Two round, silvery devices had approached the city, then had swung into tight, fast circles. As the maneuvers began, both discs turned orange-red. When they straightened out, reducing speed,

the orange hue quickly faded and the discs resumed their normal silvery color."[149]

The match up with Smith's hypothesis seemed uncanny. The talk with Smith helped lay the foundation for Keyhoe's next book on UFO's. Later, after doing some work on a manuscript that incorporates some of Smith's information, Keyhoe sent his writings to his Canadian friend for approval. Keyhoe tells us:

> "After his return to Ottawa, Smith rewrote my original draft and sent it to the Canadian Embassy in Washington. The revised report was cleared for me by Mr. Arnold Wright, Defense Research member of the Canadian Joint Staff, after a check at the Pentagon."[150]

We know something of what Keyhoe thought and did because he has left us a lot of information in the books he wrote. On the other hand, we know something about Smith's activities only by consulting declassified Canadian documents. For example, while in Washington D.C., Smith was requested to meet with Dr. Solandt:

> "Mr. Wright, Defense Research Board liaison officer at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, was extremely anxious for me to get in touch with Doctor Solandt, Chairman of the Defense Research Board, to discuss with him future investigations along the line of geo-magnetic energy releases."[151]

Smith had reservations however:

> "I do not feel that we have as yet sufficient data to place before Defense Research Board which would enable a program to be initiated within that organization, but I do feel that further research is necessary and I would prefer to see it done within the frame work of our own organization [Department of Transport] with, of course, full cooperation and exchange of information with other interested bodies."[152]

Smith received the necessary clearance from Commander C. P. Edwards, Deputy Minister of Transport for Air Services, who authorized assistance from personnel in the Broadcast and Measurements Section of DOT's Telecommunications Division.

Smith also discussed his UFO theory with his superior at DOT, John Baldwin, who was convinced enough to admit that something unusual was indeed occurring and perhaps the Canadian government should offer aid in a study of the phenomenón.

"TOP SECRET?"

The quotes below come from a Canadian Department of Transport intra-department letter stamped "TOP SECRET," a document authored by Wilbert B. Smith in the month of November 1950. It is to be cautioned, however, that statements made in the letter lack supporting documentation and therefore have to be taken at face value. According to Smith, he learned some amazing things while he was in Washington D.C. during November 1950. He wrote:

> "I made discret inquiries through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington who were able to obtain for me the following information:
>
> "a. The matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb.
>
> "b. Flying saucers exist.
>
> "c. Their modus operandi is unknown but concentrated effort is being made by a small group headed by Doctor Vannevar Bush.
>
> "d. The entire matter is considered by the United States authorities to be of tremendous significance.
>
> "I was further informed that the United States authorities are investigating along quite a number of lines which might possibly be related to the saucers such as mental phenomena and I gather that they are not doing too well since they indicated that if Canada is doing anything at all in geo-magnetics they would welcome a discussion with suitably accredited Canadians."[153]

Smith addressed a memorandum to the controller of telecommunications of the Canadian Department of Transport, a document that outlined some of his ideas about geo-magnetics:

> "For the past several years we have been engaged in the study of various aspects of radio wave propagation. The vagaries of this phenomenon have led us into the fields of aurora, cosmic radiation, atmospheric radio-activity and geo-magnetism. In the case of geo-magnetics our investigations have contributed little to our knowledge of radio wave propagation as yet, nevertheless have indicated several avenues of investigation which may be explored with profit. For example,

we are on the track of a means whereby the potential energy of the earth's magnetic field may be abstracted and used.

"On the basis of theoretical considerations a small and very crude experimental unit was constructed approximately a year ago and tested in our Standards Laboratory. The tests were essentially successful in that sufficient energy was abstracted from the earth's field to operate a voltmeter, approximately 50 milliwatts. Although this unit was far from being self-sustaining, it nevertheless demonstrated the soundness of the basic principles in a qualitative manner and provided useful data for the design of a better unit.

"The design has now been completed for a unit which should be self-sustaining and in addition provide a small surplus of power. Such a unit, in addition to functioning as a 'pilot power plant' should be large enough to permit the study of the various reaction forces which are expected to develop.

"We believe that we are on the track of something which may well prove to be the introduction to a new technology. The existence of a different technology is borne out by the investigations which are being carried on at the present time in relation to flying saucers."[154]

"While I am not yet in a position to say that we have solved even the first problems in geomagnetic energy release, I feel that the correlation between our basic theory and the available information on saucers checks too closely to be mere coincidence. It is my honest opinion that we are on the right track and are fairly close to at least some of the answers."[155]

All this time the UFO wave continued. In the UFO records of the U.S. Air Force is the following clipping from a Georgia newspaper:

"The first 'flying saucers' to be sighted in Rome, Georgia, came Monday, 14 November 1950, when reports to the Rome News-Tribune revealed that five persons saw two of the strange discs at about 2:30 p.m. All five, including the Russell Field Airport Manager and a U.S. Weather Observer, stated that they plainly saw the discs. They said they spotted the strange objects about 2:30 p.m. at the same time that an Air Force AT-6 training plane 'buzzed' the Russell Field runway. The discs were in sight for several minutes before they disappeared, one to the north and one to the northeast. One dropped toward the field and then climbed away, the group said. Their altitude and size was impossible to estimate, they said. Eastern

Air Lines planes were alerted to watch for the saucers."[156]

November 16 the Philadelphia Inquirer mentioned a sighting at Reading, Pennsylvania, while on the 19th the Pittsburg Sun Telegraph reported a UFO over that Pennsylvania city.

November 21st.

UFO activity in U.S. skies was now rare but not totally absent. On November 21st, the downtown streets of Pasco, Washington, were filled with people earnestly gazing at a glistening, spindle-shaped object slowly moving across the sky. The object only stopped once and that was to pause for a moment directly over the Hanford atomic plant. Among those watching were Perry Torbergson and a Jack Anderson, both employees of the Columbian Basin News. Although the object was in plain view for a good eight minutes, Colonel Weld of Hanford security told the press that his men had noted nothing unusual.[157]

Mr. Anderson of the News, however, had a list of witnesses to the passage of the phenomenon. He remarked:

> "We have names of at least 25 persons who saw it. Nearly everyone I talked to seemed to agree that it stopped and hung in the air. All seemed to describe it as a stick of light."[158]

Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and now the atomic installation at Hanford, were seemingly given the fish-eye by "someone," or "something," if authorities were so inclined to think that way.

Smith and Dr. Solandt.

In Ottawa, Smith met with the eminent Dr. Solandt. Smith recorded the essential facts of the visits:

> "I discussed this matter fully with Doctor Solandt, Chairman of Defense Research Board, on November 20th and placed before him as much information as I have been able to gather to date. Doctor Solandt agreed that work on geo-magnetic energy should go forward as rapidly as possible and offered full cooperation of his Board in providing laboratory facilities, acquisition of necessary items of equipment, and specialized personnel for incidental work in the project. I indicated to Doctor Solandt that we would prefer to keep the project within the Department of Transport for the time being until we have obtained sufficient information to permit a complete assessment of the value of the work.
>
> "It is therefore recommended that a project [the project was dubbed Project MAGNET] be set

up within the frame work of this Section to study this problem and that the work be carried on a part-time basis until such time as sufficient tangible results can be seen to warrant more definitive action. Cost of the program in its initial stages are expected to be less than a few hundred dollars and can be carried by our Radio Standards Lab appropriation."[159]

Seagulls or Saucers?

Thanksgiving Day, 1950, at about 3:15 p.m., four "things" appeared out of the sky over Montgomery, Alabama. In the files of Maxwell Air Force Base is this story:

> "The first object came from about 230 degrees and, when over Montgomery, ascended to a very great height. As it descended, it appeared to turn over and over. This object then moved off rapidly to the NE and disappeared. My wife saw this object as it descended over Montgomery and moving off to the NE. As this object flipped over several times while ascending and descending, I could tell it was round when viewed from the bottom and thin when viewed from the side.
>
> "A few minutes later another one passed over very quickly, same direction, level flight, disappeared to the NE. I was not able to obtain a witness to this one as my wife had gone inside the house. It was after this I called out Captain --- (deleted) and told him I had seen some unusual objects. For several minutes we saw nothing. Captain --- (deleted) went into his house.
>
> "After a few minutes two more of the objects same over together, they came from about 180 degrees, one continued on out of sight to the north rising rapidly but the other turned and came back over. This object then began to ascend and rapidly passed out of sight. Captain --- (deleted) came out at once and definitely saw these objects. He could not identify them either."[160]

In the above account there is a reference to a "Captain." His version of the incident is also on file:

> "On the afternoon of Thanksgiving, 23 November 1950, while I was in my quarters, 811C MAFB, Major --- (deleted) knocked on my door and said, 'I just saw a flying saucer.' Captain --- (deleted), who was with me at the time, and I went outside to talk to Major --- (deleted). Later that same afternoon, after Captain --- (deleted) had left my house, Major --- (deleted) knocked again and asked me to come outside in a hurry because he thought I would

be able to see another object before it got out of sight. I ran outside quickly and focused my eyes on an object that he pointed to. I immediately saw a second object. As far as I can remember, they were directly over the building in which we live; they were white in color; one following the other. I remarked to Major --- (deleted) that one object looked like seagull suspended in mid-air with its wings extended but stiff and motionless. The second object appeared to be two lengths behind the leader and at the same altitude. The second object looked like a white ball, the diameter of which appeared to be the same as the width, at the widest part, of the object that looked like a seagull. They were stationary for about a minute. Then they started moving north and gaining altitude. They disappeared about 30 seconds after they started moving. The two objects kept the same relative position to each other during the entire time."[161]

Were the objects seagulls? There are substantial differences between the accounts that would require more complete interrogation and on site investigation. No such follow-up, however, appears to have been made. A tentative "seagull" explanation, in Air Force practice, eventually becomes a permanent answer with the passage of years and no critic is the wiser.

Drew Pearson.

The "anti-saucer movement" in the U.S. was joined by one of the country's most influential commentators, Drew Pearson, who wrote in his "Washington Merry-go-round" column on November 25th that the saucer disease had reached epidemic proportions and because of that fact he could no longer ignore the phenomenon, informing his readers that the military had assured him there was no such thing as a flying saucer type craft, especially space ships stuffed with midgets from the planet Venus. According to the story, Pearson had been granted access to Air Force UFO files which showed that the military had checked each case with the utmost care. Yet, in spite of the best efforts of the Air Force to play down the excitement, the public had persisted in its reporting of the aerial sea serpents.[162]

Two more from the northern U.S.

South Dakota's contribution, on November 27th, told of mysterious glowing objects darting about in the dark early morning sky above the city of Huron, flashing red, white, and green.

A Mr. G. Fowler of the U.S. Weather Bureau, W. Henry of the CAA, and two members of Western Airlines, observed the phenomenon. Farther north, some 75 miles away at Aberdeen,

South Dakota, W. B. Hiller, another CAA official, reported a smiliar flying object.[163]

East of South Dakota that day at Evansville, Wisconsin, a commercial pilot named B. Blair swore that six elliptical objects zoomed past his plane in a loose echelon formation. He heard a roaring sound and guessed that the objects were making about 500 m.p.h.[164]

The "star" that moved.

A regularly scheduled airliner, a DC-3 type, was flying at 2,500 feet altitude west of Bakersfield, California, en route to Burbank at 9:08 p.m. on November 27th, when the passenger plane's pilot and co-pilot noticed a brilliant "star" of exceptional size. The "star" was above and to the left of the airliner appearing unnaturally large in the black heavens. The pilots were both peering at the "star" when it suddenly lurched into motion! The Air Force report on this case states:

> "It suddenly made a sharp turn at an angle of 35 degrees, and headed toward the DC-3 aircraft, made a slow left turn when fairly close and flew parallel to observing aircraft for a short distance. Object then pulled ahead to the left about 30 degrees to head toward Wheeler Ridge, Palmdale Area. DC-3 pilot applied full power to indicate speed of over 200 miles per hour, but object pulled away rapidly on a straight course until gradually disappeared."[165]

The official comment about the case stated the obvious:

> "Possibility of object being a star, planet, meteor, or balloon is ruled out because it neither maintained a fixed position nor followed a constant path. Speed, remarkable maneuvering, and brilliant light of object seemed to indicate to the witnesses that it was not a conventional aircraft. Brilliance of object prevented its identification."[166]

Further odd doings at Oak Ridge.

The CPS-1 radar at Knoxville, Tennessee, experienced unusual returns the evening of November 29th between 5:00 and 11:00 p.m. The targets caused a stir among security personnel at Oak Ridge, for although interceptors sent aloft to challenge the bogies had no visual contact with unauthorized aircraft, the mysterious targets caused alarm since they appeared to be flying down a valley directly toward the atomic installation. Heightening concern was the inexplicable pronounced rise in radiation at 1900 hours during the presence of "unidentified airborne objects" in the area. According to the Atomic Energy Commission officials,

graph records of Geiger counters in the Oak Ridge "restricted area" indicated an abnormal amount of Alpha particles and Gamma rays that were not attributed to any known source.

It was suggested that the interceptor aircraft might be equipped with Geiger counter devices to check the possibility there may be a correlation between the unexplained radar targets and the mysterious radiation.[167]

"Small transparent objects?"

Air Force Intelligence expert J. J. Rodgers contacted his superiors about a perplexing English enigma. He penned:

> "Recent news broadcasts state that small transparent objects resembling bricks have dropped from the sky in Great Britain. It was stated that several of these objects were found but an investigation revealed that the objects had nothing to do with experiments being conducted by any branches of the military services. In conclusion, one commentator stated that 'it looks like more flying saucers.' It is suggested that the British be contacted for further details on this incident."[168]

Aussie anomalies.

Scores of UFO reports were recorded down under in Australia by the end of the year. The Aussies were seeing: "flying poles," "flying eggs," "torpedoes," etc. One night in November, some fifteen witnesses (among their number were two airline pilots) observed strange objects moving about in the sky after dark over New South Wales and Queensland.[169]

Here is one story:

> "On the night of December 2, three different people excitedly rang Melbourne newspapers to say they had seen a saucer swooping over the suburbs at about eight o'clock. In each case the flight across the sky took about seven seconds before the saucer disappeared from sight. All the reports described the UFO as bluish-white with green objects on the side and a blue exhaust tail."[170]

"Operational difficulties."

On Friday and Saturday, December 1 - 2, 1950, military experts held discussions concerning the "operational difficulties" of 663rd early warning radar of the Continental Air Defense Command at Knoxville, Tennessee. Even Senator-elect Monroney joined in the talks.

After a long discussion it was decided that Air Force Intelligence should be requested to conduct an investigation

and that it should set up an additional radar unit to provide a cross check of any further unexplained radar targets.[171]

"Project MAGNET."

In Canada Wilbert Smith's efforts were bearing fruit. A formal project was suggested and the idea met with approval. The initiating document containing the proposal for the undertaking of Canada's "Project MAGNET" and its authorization by Mr. C. P. Edwards, Deputy Minister of Transport for Air Services, was drawn up on December 2, 1950.[172]

Irish humor.

Postman Bernard Burns trudged to one of the last stops on his mail route in the village of Newbliss, County Monogham, Ireland, early in December, when eight objects, to him resembling "table knives," passed overhead high up traveling broadside first and weaving up and down. The boys at the local pub were quick to jest: "probably butcher knives chasing those high-priced Christmas turkeys."[173]

Spying?

A tract of land around Ellenton, South Carolina, had been selected for America's first H-bomb factory. Construction had not yet begun but townspeople still suffered from a bad case of the willies the night of December 2nd. Four residents, one of which was Rev. R. D. Parkinson, a Baptist minister, were startled by the oddest apparition. He said: "It looked like a great, big white star with red lights." The UFO, brilliantly lit, "dipped up and down and flashed back and forth for about 10 minutes," before it moved away to the southwest. Any UFO buff would recognize a typical UFO "sky dance," a familiar although unexplained UFO antic. One unnerving suggestion in the local Ellenton newspaper went: "Were flying saucers spying on the proposed site of the nation's first hydrogen bomb plant last night?"[174]

According to the newspaper account, Rev. Parkinson could no longer see the red lights when he got to the yard. The Rev. said: "It looked like four stars together and was moving away. It was moving away toward Georgia in a southwesterly direction."[175]

"The missing item."

From the desk of J. Edgar Hoover on December 5th, came a note addressed to the local FBI office at Knoxville, Tennessee:

> "Arrangements should be made to obtain all facts concerning possible radar jamming by ionization of particles in atmosphere.

Conduct appropriate investigation to determine whether incident occurring northeast of Oliver Springs, Tennesse, could have had any connection with alleged radar jamming."[176]

Declassified FBI documents make no mention of a UFO incident at Oliver Springs and the same can be said for declassified Army Intelligence records, but by a fluke we can determine that an Oliver Springs case did exist. A three page declassified Army Intelligence document covering UFO activity in the Tennessee region during the month of October 1950 says nothing about Oliver Springs on pages one and two, yet on page three there is the following notation:

"CORRECTION on second page of the S/I, Subject as above, dated 13 October 1950, replace the word Oliver Springs for 'Sulphur Springs.'"[177]

There is no mention of a "Sulphur Springs" either.

Electronic Sub-Division personnel and AMC Intelligence officers met at Oak Ridge on December 5th and 6th with NEPA project officers, OSI and CIC agents. They arrived at the conclusion that a temperature inversion had caused the strange radar targets on November 29th since it was noted that the permanent echoes on the Knoxville radar screen were unusually distinct at the time of the UFO incident. Accordingly, no so-called flying saucers were around, or were they? Perhaps the experts had only to look out the window December 5th.[178]

A wife of one of the security officers at Oak Ridge, a Mrs. Turner, told authorities that on the afternoon of December 5th:

"...while standing on Tennessee Avenue at the west end of the bus platform across from the Post Office, she...observed an object over the top of the Post Office building, flying in an easterly direction at a slow speed, at a distance of approximately 2 miles and at an altitude of approximately 500 feet. Mrs. Turner stated that the object was a brilliant metallic, an aluminum or highly polished metal that reflected the light. The shape was round, flat, or disc-like, and appeared to turn slightly to the left or northwest and when turning the appearance changed and the light was no longer reflected by the object and it appeared smaller and dark gray in color, but no change in speed. The object left no definite trail, however on the edge of the left side of the object a misty 'halo' could be seen. The object flew a straight course and no noise could be heard. The total time of observation was about sixty seconds."[179]

This sighting was backed by another:

> "At about 1300, Mrs. --- (deleted), Oak Ridge, while in her yard, observed an object described similarly with the one observed by Mrs. Turner with the exception that the object was moving west when she observed it."180

"Technical Approaches to the Problems of UFO's."

A fascinating source of information for study is a Secret Intelligence report dated December 5, 1950. The AMC Field Engineering Officer at Oak Ridge, Lt. Colonel John R. Hood, Jr., personnel at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and others from the AF Radar Operations Sections, McGhee-Tyson Airport, put their heads together and concocted what they dubbed: "Technical Approaches to the Problems of UFO's."

Under the date of December 5th, Colonel Hood outlined the scheme in a letter addressed to the Commanding General, Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio:

> "With the offered assistance of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and NEPA, radioactive background counters are being located over as wide an area of the Restricted Area as practical. These are approximately ten in number and include air samplers. Most of these counters have been in operation under the cognizance of the Health-Physics Division to maintain a constant air monitoring program. A map of these counter locations will be recorded and, when sufficient number have been recorded to establish a basis for evaluation, the radioactive counter records will be compared to the radar log to see if any change in the background occurs with the presence of sighted objects. In addition, portable counters carried in a radio-equipped patrol car may be directed by the radar station to a location on the area under the plotted sighting.
>
> "Dr. K. Z. Morgan, Head of the Health-Physics Division of ORNL, will provide (in late December) a several thousand Curie source of active material for the purpose of checking the radar operations to determine if the ionized air above an open portion of the source can be detected by the radar station. The source will be moved on a truck to various locations in Oak Ridge and any other desirable points. The purpose of this is to determine if the radar set located at the Knoxville Airport can see concentrations of ionized air which might result from gases released from the stacks of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and also to provide some indication relative to the radar detection of the nuclear powered aircraft.

"Dr. D. H. Davis of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory is making available airborne Geiger counter equipment which initially will be carried in the C-45 assigned to this activity and which can later be mounted, if desired, in the wing tank of the F-82 fighter. The aircraft carrying this equipment will be flown by the personnel of the Radar Operation Section and vectored to the sightings being plotted by the radar in an attempt to determine if the sightings are radioactive gas or caused by some other radioactive source. It is expected that this equipment will be operational in the C-45 within ten days.

"Dr. Davis has suggested as the possibility of using a Geographical Survey C-47 equipped with airborne counters and air samplers and with a magnetometer, scheduled to be in the Oak Ridge area in the near future. It may be desirable and possible that this ship can be similarly vectored into the area of the sightings being plotted in order to detect any radioactivity and also in an attempt to detect any electromagnetic field fluctuations with the magnetometer. The local Radar Section has agreed to place in operation as soon as possible a height-finder-type radar and has begun operating a B-scope to get a more accurate plot of the sighting. In addition, they plan to tie in an oscilloscope with the radar set to compare the wave shape and the reflected waves to attempt to determine wave shape characteristics as observed from aircraft, clouds, birds and other objects.

"Some preliminary discussions have been held informally to consider the possibility of locating stationary magnetometers or similar devices to see if the fluctuations in the earth's electro-magnetic occur with the radar sightings. It may be possible, if desired, to fabricate locally the sensitive portion of these magnetometers. In addition, suggestions have been made to consider employing directional or telescopic types of Geiger counters, spectographs, and other means for obtaining air samples.

"The services of electronic expert and ex-MIT radar specialists located in the Oak Ridge Area are being offered to the Radar Operations Section to act as consultants or to offer technical advice to the Radar Department. Personnel concerned will be those who are or have been cleared for military work and, of course, have 'Q' clearance."[181]

Australia, December 7th:

"...a number of residents of Maryborough in Queensland, about two hundred miles north of Brisbane,

saw a bright blue saucer make a wide sweep over the town at about eight p.m., traveling northwards with rocket-like speed. A few minutes later it returned at low level, then started climbing almost vertically to an estimated eight thousand feet before once more disappearing to the north. Its speed was estimated at between four and five hundred miles per hour."[182]

In the U.S. in a clear blue sky on December 7th a flat disc, metallic-like and flashing with light, sailed over Rangely, Oklahoma. Seven witnesses gave their names to authorities. The object rotated, they said, and had a dome on top.[183]

"Ice," a hot subject in Londontown.

A "Fortean phenomenon" of ice bombs pelting the English countryside tickled UP stringer Robert Musel. Reporting from London he informed America that odd falls of ice had coincided with the serialization of "pseudo-scientific' flying saucer books in some London newspapers prompting speculation "men from Mars" were throwing ice cubes.

While Musel was amused by the whole business, he noted that the British Air Ministry was not chuckling. The Air Ministry was asking that samples of the ice be sent to them for analysis, and that on December 7th the Secretary of State for the Air, Arthur Henderson, felt compelled to address the House of Commons to assure its members there was no need for alarm since the ice was no doubt from waste water dropped by passing airplanes.[184]

It's puzzling why the Intelligence report refers to the "ice bombs" as "clear triangular objects" when press reports clearly state the material was frozen water.

The ice fell at Loudwater, Buckinghamshire, Vigo Village in Kent, some areas in Exmoor (pieces 12 inches long which in one case killed a sheep), and near Dunmow in Essex. At Dumbarton, in Scotland, a mass weighing 100 lbs. impacted with a loud pop showering a Mr. Daird Patterson with splinters![185]

A "L" over the lake.

The Army notified the Air Force of the following:

"Description: Cigar-shaped object, possibly a rocket, 4 to 5 yards in length. Object emitted a large fiery trail. No sound was heard. During sighting object executed a very sharp 'L' pattern over Lake Champlain.

"Time: Object was sighted at 2100 hours about 13 December 1950. Length of time of sighting not indicated.

Opposite page: The FBI document referred to in the text. Note the emphasis given to the subject of "jurisdiction for investigation" which is an indication of the friction between the Air Force and the FBI over the possibility the security of sensitive installations may have been compromised.

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : THE DIRECTOR

DATE: October 9, 1950

FROM : MR. D. M. LADD

SUBJECT: FLYING SAUCERS
FLYING DISCS
GREEN FIREBALLS

PURPOSE

To advise you of the most recent information known to the Bureau concerning the captioned aerial phenomena.

BACKGROUND

You will recall that on August 23, 1950, I furnished to you a memorandum regarding Project Twinkle set up by the Department of the Air Force, with the assistance of Land-Air, Inc., at Vaughn, New Mexico, for the purpose of obtaining data regarding these unusual aerial phenomena which had been seen in the vicinity of sensitive installations in New Mexico. To date the Air Force has not advised us of any new developments in connection with this project.

[redacted], Project Engineer of Project Twinkle, has been contacted by the Albuquerque Office and arrangements have been made in order that the Bureau will be advised in the event any information relative to these phenomena indicates any jurisdiction on the part of the Bureau.

According to Bureau files, an average of approximately three or four complaints have been received per month from June through September. These complaints were brought to the attention of OSI. A review of Bureau files does not indicate that there has been any increase in the sightings of these phenomena during or as a result of the war in Korea.

JURISDICTION FOR INVESTIGATION OF THESE PHENOMENA

You will recall the investigation to obtain information concerning these aerial phenomena is the jurisdiction of the Department of the Air Force. The Department of the Air Force is aware of our jurisdiction in matters relating to espionage, sabotage and internal security, and we have contacted OSI and requested them to advise us of any developments in connection with these phenomena which would be of interest to us as a result of our jurisdiction.

EHM:de

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"Sighting of object was by visual means.

"Observers apparently were in city of Winoosski, Vermont, at time of sighting and noticed the unconventional object come into view in a southward course from Canada thence turn west over Lake Champlain opposite Burlington to a westerly direction toward White Face Mountain. Altitude estimated at 5,000 feet. Distance of object from observers not indicated."[186]

Across the country at about the same northerly latitude, three persons in an auto near Bliss, Idaho, on December 14th, spotted a round object flying along just above the terrain.[187]

Meanwhile, at Oak Ridge on December 14th, the military went on an alert because:

"A group of targets blanketed the radar scopes in the area directly over the government Atomic Energy Commission projects at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. These objects could not be identified from the radar image and a perfect fighter interception met with negative results."[188]

News out of the Melbourne suburb of Bentleigh in Australia on December 15th told of a number of housewives who had seen a strange aerial object. While waiting for their children to board a bus for school, the women witnessed the passage of an: "oval object, about eighteen feet by twenty feet, and making a buzzing sound."[189] UFO investigator James Horwitz, searching the records years later, discovered what he determined were activities by the government of Australia in reaction to the UFO wave tormenting the country:

"The Department of Civil Aviation was informed and it was revealed that it had already received many other reports of UFO's and was conducting an investigation. The result of that investigation was never disclosed and the Department clamped the same blanket silence over the subject as has the RAAF."[190]

December 16th.

It sped downward gathering speed while throwing off light. Below were the waters of Lake Michigan, dark and forbidding at the hour of midnight. Some five miles away on shore near Grand Haven, Michigan, an Otto Herny watched in fascination. The light in the black sky looked like a big curve-like harvest moon, said Herny, as he observed the thing plunging into the water. It appeared as a distant camp fire for a brief moment before the glow on the surface vanished.[191]

Two more from sensitive "atomic areas."

The radar log of the 663rd AC&W unit at Knoxville:

> "20 December 1950. 1247 hours. Small paint [radar target] in area (Oak Ridge Controlled Area). Very, very slow. Made perfect intercept (with F-82 aircraft) and orbit surrounding small cloud [UFO exhaust?]."[192]

Another green "meteor" was visible over Los Alamos, New Mexico, on December 21st. A brilliant neon green, it flared up and then abruptly winked out. The "meteor" was so bright it was noticed even though its passage occurred at 2:40 p.m. in broad daylight.[193]

Was something happening off shore?

A U.S. Navy Aerographer stationed at Navy Fleet Weather Central, San Diego Naval Base, San Diego, California, swore he had a baffling experience just before Christmas 1950, during the launch of a pilot balloon. While watching the balloon's ascent through a theodolite, the Aerographer spotted some objects passing through his field of vision. These strange objects seemed so interesting he disengaged the ratchet gears to free the theodolite so he could follow the objects with greater ease:

> "I sighted out over Point Loma, which is in the general NW direction from the air station, and immediately picked up a number of these objects traveling together as if in formation. There would be groups of three or four, a pair and even single ones, all following the same course. They appeared to be traveling at a very high speed, as in order to follow them the theodolite had to be turned quite rapidly on its base. I reported our discovery via the intercom to those below but no one would believe us. Finally our watch chief, Chief --- (deleted) came up and upon taking hold of the glass immediately sighted them. This report brought everyone up on the roof. The objects were not visible with the naked eye, nor even with a pair of binoculars brought from the traffic control tower.
>
> "As to their appearance, they had a gray-white color and were tear-drop shaped. If you were to cut through an airplane's wing, the crosscut would be very close to their appearance.
>
> "At the rear end there was a cottony-looking tail which seemed to wave about but did not became any longer in size. It did not look like a jet trail as it grew no longer. They were traveling in a north to south direction, seemingly running parallel with the sea coast and then very suddenly

making a 90 degree turn at high speed and disappearing from view heading toward the ocean toward the west. There were groups of them and I believe they kept reappearing, as if they were on a circular course around and around. We had as many as 30 people watching them. We watched them for about an hour and a half. I was told later that our base radar had these objects and they were over 100,000 feet.

"Comdr. --- (deleted) sighted one which was not moving. We all had a chance to look at it and a few minutes later while --- (deleted) was watching it, he said there was a sudden white puff from its base and it shot out of view at the top of the eyepiece. He said it looked as if someone had dropped a large bag of flour out of the bottom and then it was gone.

"The objects very suddenly stopped appearing."[194]

The above information was sent to a scientist who forwarded the letter to the Air Force. No investigation was conducted, or at least nothing indicating such can be discovered in military records. Since names were given in the account (although deleted by military censors later), it would be a simple matter to check the man's claims. Lacking any follow-up, it is nonetheless interesting to note that the UFO's shape and its maneuvers compare somewhat favorably with other such reports.

Mother Nature's "fascination" with Los Alamos in New Mexico kept a steady pace. On the 28th of December, a round fiery object, bluish-green in hue, streaked over the atomic/missile installation.

A watch on the Soviets.

A military Intelligence document filed with the Air Force titled "Information Only" states:

"There have been many sightings reported of unknown objects observed on the Soviet-Iranian border and the following represents a cross-cut of the sighting:

"29 Dec 50 Description: Green and black moving with extraordinary speed from W to E exploded after a few minutes, leaving a great volume of smoke (evaluation: probable meteor)."[195]

"IMMEDIATE HIGH ALERT!"

A teletype message from the FBI office at Richmond, Virginia, notified J. Edgar Hoover in Washington in late December that:

> "This office [has been] very confidentially advised by Army Intelligence, Richmond, that they have been put on immediate high alert for any data whatsoever concerning flying saucers. CIC (Counter Intelligence Corps) here states background of instructions not available from Air Force Intelligence, who are not aware of reason for alert locally, but any information whatsoever must be telephoned by them immediately to Air Force intelligence. CIC advises data strictly confidential and should not be disseminated."[194]

Amazingly, nothing can be found in Air Force records; this mention in FBI files being the only clue about an "IMMEDIATE HIGH ALERT," a fact that provides evidence that there were things going on that we have yet to be aware of and about which we may not know for many years until more secret records are released to the public.

With that, UFO history for the year 1950 comes to an end.

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA – Sept. 14, 1950

A BOOKMAN'S NOTEBOOK

Those Flying Saucers

By JOSEPH HENRY JACKSON

For some time there have been advance notices to the effect that Mr. Frank Scully, long a writer of humor and the like, was about to publish a book on the subject of flying saucers.

It is out under the title, "Behind the Flying Saucers" (Holt; $2.75), and unless Mr. Scully is disguising humor in the most involved fashion of any humorist yet, it is not intended as a funny book. Its publisher is clearly not being cute about it, either; in a "Publisher's Note" he writes: "We are publishing the book because we believe it to be as exciting, timely, and straightforward interpretation of one of the strangest phenomenon (sic) in modern times."

Employing somewhat better grammar for the rest of his brief statement, the publisher goes on to note that he has never seen a flying saucer (Mr. Scully notes that he hasn't either), and that the reader will find Mr. Scully's answers both fascinating and provocative.

As to that, the reader will have to make up his own mind. Indeed, he will have to come to his own conclusions about whether any "answers" are to be found in this book to begin with. There are few direct statements put forward as fact. There is a great deal of semi-fact, not actually claimed as fact by the author, but written in such a manner that most readers are likely to accept it all as fact. The technique is one used by all sorts of people these days. If you handle it ably, you can "answer" all kinds of questions—as witness the Baconians when they want to prove that Bacon wrote Shakespeare. You might even "prove," if you like, something quite mystical about Scully himself; the fact is that his initials, "F. S." are also the initials of the words "flying saucers." And if you count the letters of Scully's name backward for both these words, you come out with just one letter left, in each case—and those letters are "F. S." Clearly Frank Scully and Flying Saucers are closely linked. Maybe by those lines of "magnetic force" about which Mr. Scully writes so much in this book.

Are There Really "Saucers"?

Mr. Scully, to boil his book down, says (or as good as says, because he doesn't say much directly, as of himself), that there are flying saucers. At least he says that a "scientist" identified only as "Dr. Gee," told him so.

Of course, the reader is not told who "Dr. Gee" may be. But there is a good technique here; Mr. Scully writes that he met "Dr. Gee" through a Mr. S. M. Newton, who does exist; he's a businessman, oil executive, etc. By a well-known human association-habit, you are therefore expected not only to believe in "Dr. Gee," but to believe him, as he is here quoted. Maybe there is a "Dr. Gee." I don't know. Until he is identified, I have no ground on which to base either belief or disbelief.

At any rate, the story at this point becomes "Dr. Gee's" story.

According to Scully, "Dr. Gee" saw grounded flying saucers. Four of them have come to earth, and been spirited away (Mr. Scully suggests) by the military for further examination. "Dr. Gee" was there, Scully says, and made some observations, including a few on the "little men" (all dead) that occupied the saucers. There are other details, reading a good deal like science-fiction, and that's about it.

For the rest, Mr. Scully discusses the Air Force handling of the subject (which he doesn't like), the article that appeared in True Magazine, and other articles, including his own "Twenty Questions" which he put to the Air Force and which they didn't answer. (The questions were asked in print by Mr. Scully, in the show-business magazine, Variety.) He also goes into considerable detail on the subject of magnetism (the saucers, he implies, fly on "lines of magnetic force"), and manages to get into the discussion a large number of names of scientists, past and present, from Faraday to Einstein. And he closes with a record of newspaper and magazine stories, etc., on the whole subject, as these have appeared in print from the beginning of the flying saucer phenomenon.

Does Scully Believe It All?

Now of course no one but Mr. Scully himself knows just how much of all this he believes to be true.

No one can evaluate the testimony of "Dr. Gee" when he remains unidentified. Perhaps a reputable scientist, reliable in all ways, did see one or several flying saucers, complete with little men from 36 to 43 inches in height, the vehicles made of metal or alloy not known to us. Perhaps such a man told Scully he examined these saucers; one of the few things Scully says directly is that he met and talked with "Dr. Gee" who told him these things, and one can only assume that Scully is telling the truth about that. He says he asked "Dr. Gee" questions directly and that "Dr. Gee" gave the answers he quotes. All depends, then, on who "Dr. Gee" is, and Mr. Scully doesn't tell us.

For me, I'm afraid, this is not evidence. Maybe, as Mr. Scully says, the Air Force is concealing something. Maybe, as "Dr. Gee" guesses, the saucers flew to the earth—if they did—from the planet Venus. But without knowing of the identity of the man who is quoted as making the statement, the evidence has no value for me.

As for Mr. Scully's discussion—ranging far afield—of the "magnetic lines of force" by means of which the saucers are supposed to have flown—well, when Mr. Scully says, as he repeatedly does, that these lines, which "never cross each other," run "1337 to the square centimeter," it just doesn't make sense to me. A group of non-crossing lines will run so many to the centimeter, or yard or mile or whatever, which measures them. Why "square centimeter" then? Why "square" anything? As used here, the term is a solemn-sounding bit of nonsense, that's all. And as far as I'm concerned, I reserve the right to suspect, throughout, any "scientific" discussion whose author falls into as elementary an error as that.

(Paper & City Unknown), Dec. 29, 1950.

Flying Saucers Labeled Fakes

Colonel Harold E. Watson, head of the Air Force's "Project Saucer" unit, said today there are positively no flying saucers, either hostile or our own—but it costs taxpayers plenty to expose this great American hoax.

Writing in the January issue of Cosmopolitan magazine, veteran reporter Bob Considine quotes Watson as saying:

"I wish we did have a form of propulsion capable of doing all the things people attribute to saucers. It would have come in handy in Korea."

According to Considine, the Air Force blames most of the daily saucer reports on weather balloons, flares, meteorites, hallucinations, pilot fatigue, power of suggestion and reflection of objects in aircraft windows and windshields.

The article refers to the acceptance of the saucers by magazine writers, aeronautical experts, Navy officers and airline pilots. The Air Force, he says, feels "dutybound to investigate" the claims.

Considine points out that saucer reports have been traced to bizarre bits of ordinary machinery built as pranks, to "eye-witnesses" who refused to answer investigators' questions, and to former inmates of insane asylums.

'Flying Dippers' Reported Seen In Fredericksburg

1950 By the Associated Press

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., Sept. 1.—Now it's flying dippers.

Two Fredericksburg women, Mrs. L. P. Hitt and Mrs. W. N. Le Couteur, sisters, saw the dipper from the lawn of Mrs. Le Couteur's home Wednesday night.

They described it as a "very bright light," not very large, that moved not too fast.

They said they watched the dipper for about five minutes as it moved northward. It looked like a quart-sized cup to them.

Mrs. Le Couteur's husband vouched for the dipper. He said he had seen a similar dipper about two weeks ago but had said nothing about it.

Destroyer Tracking Mysterious "Object"

SAN DIEGO, CAL., Nov. 10, 1950.—The U. S. destroyer, Blue, searched the Pacific Ocean off Southern California with radar today, trying to track down a mysterious "unidentified object."

A navy report said the Blue picked the "object" up on its radar screen and was maintaining the contact. The Blue, based at San Diego, had the object in its radar screen and was trying to close with it to identify it.

Announcement of the search was made at Washington after San Diego authorities forwarded a report to the Navy Department there.

FOOTNOTES

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4. Ibid, p. 2.
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6. Ibid.
7. Letter: To: Commanding General, Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. From: Col. George A. A. Jones, AC&S, G-2 Hq. Fourth Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. (date missing) Blue Book Files.
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9. "Spot Intelligence Report," by Major Richard G. Cox. Kirtland AFB. 7 August 50. Blue Book Files.
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26. Letter: To: D. Moreau Barringer, 1528 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. From: Major General C. P. Cabell, Director of Intelligence, USAF. Room 4A-932, Pentagon, Washington 25, D.C. 20 September 50. Blue Book Files.
27. Letter: To: Commanding General, Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. From: Colonel H. J. Kieling, Executive Director of Intelligence, USAF. Department of the Air Force, Washington 25, D.C. 3 October 50. Blue Book Files.
28. "UFO's and the FBI: Involvement in the Early Years," by Dr. Bruce S. Maccabee. International UFO Reporter, Vol. 3, #3, March 1978, p. 6.
29. "Air Intelligence Information Report," prepared by Major R. G. Illing, Acting Base Director, Operations and Projects, 2754th Experimental Wing, Holloman AFB, New Mexico. 13 September 50. Blue Book Files.
30. Ibid.
31. Ibid.
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62. Ibid.
63. Letter: To: Commanding General, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. ATTN: MCI. From: Col. --- (deleted) Acting AC of S, G-2, Hq. Fifth Army. 1660 East Hyde Park Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois. 26 September 50. Blue Book Files.
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(Clipping from Knoxville Journal, dated 26 Oct 1950)

Saucers Bob Up Again In Reports

Ridge Informants Insist Object Seen There Was 'Big As A House'

By BILL ANDERSON

OAK RIDGE, Oct. 25—Reports that an object like a flying saucer as seen near the top-secret Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft project here grew stronger today.

But they are all second hand reports like so many of the other stories out flying saucers.

The NEPA project is a joint effort by the Air Force, the Atomic Energy Commission, and several aircraft companies to make a study of the application of atomic energy to the propulsion of aircraft.

The reports, all unofficial and from private sources, described the object as "silver—like an airliner, and apparently of aluminum construction."

"When in the air it was accompanied by the sound of jets," they said.

FIRST RIDGE REPORT

It was the first detailed report of such an object to appear in the atomic city.

AEC officials told The Journal that they have "no comment on such reports." The commission recently passed out forms for guards at the Los Alamos plant to fill out in case they saw flying saucers. The forms were not distributed here.

The reports started to filter into The Journal Oak Ridge Bureau two weeks ago. They were at first discounted, due to the fact that on the same day the reports started the story of the AEC queries in Los Alamos appeared in The Journal.

Yesterday two reports were re-

Continued on Page 9, Col. 1

Saucer Reports Bob U Again In Ridge Repo

Informants Say Aluminum Object Rose Secret Project, Was 'Big As A House'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

celved, both from usually reliable sources.

The saucer-looking object was seen late Thursday, Oct. 12—a few hours before the form story appeared.

The following description was given of the object: "It was round and big as a four-room house. The color was silver—like an airliner, and it was of aluminum construction, or an element looking like aluminum. There was a "blister" at the top of the saucer, and it had windows.

ROSE—AND SWOOSH!

"The object rose, very, slowly, for about 100 feet, and then moved slightly forward. The Journal informant said. "Again it rose, about the same distance up and forward and then—swoosh! It was gone at a fast rate of speed."

The person added that the object, during its fast flight away from the vicinity, seemed to "flatten out."

None of the sources questioned by The Journal had seen the object; they had just talked to someone who said they had seen it. And it was obvious that the persons who said they saw it did not realize what they were telling might fall under the head of classified or secret information. Strict security rules cover all classified material.

While the official A ment was "no commen with several other so cate a rumor of the s has made its rounds o ernment buildings here

In a routine check w officials connected wit ect here, the followin tion was given to them a series of questions

"Several persons wo and around the NEPA the K-25 plant have objects termed by them ing saucer,' was seen 13 or late Oct. 12 in area.

"Have you heard sim of the same type object area or the NEPA pro at those times or at or later date?"

NO AEC COMMENT

Gordon Molesworth, the manager for Publ tion here, said, "no co the questions.

Will Cole, public NEPA said "no."

Both offices said there had been no formation passed on

The latest quarterl sued by the Office o formation for the AE to say about the ato sion project, but no formation as to proj plant.

Last week, one wor to The Journal that had spotted what scribed as a flying description placed th ing in circles over some length of tim the same day, a f stationed in Knoxvil tional purposes her flying over the area

Previous reports d year came from the reporting flying sauc turned out to be a

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15

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
8TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA

-109-

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

?

6670

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters, U. S. Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

1. SYNOPSIS: On 5 November 1950 at 1155 hours Mr. [redacted], Oak Ridge, Tennessee, sighted an unidentified flying object over the northwest corner of Oak Ridge area.

2. DETAILS:

a. Description - The object observed by [redacted] changed shapes rapidly from pear shape to bean shape and to other shapes as noted on inclosed drawing. The object was light gray in color with a core that was a much darker gray. The object appeared to be translucent. The mass of the object was constant and had sharply outlined edges and the core also had definite lines. Speed could not be estimated but was described as "rapid and darting". The object maneuvered within an area of a circle as illustrated on the inclosure. [redacted] further described the core as assuming the shape of the whole object, that is, when the object elongated the core would be elongate also. The object disappeared while [redacted] was attempting to locate a witness to the phenomena. No sound could be heard nor could the means of propulsion be determined. [redacted] made on-the-spot notes of his observation. Pertinent of these are as follows: "rapidly changing shape. Constant mass. Sharply outlined edges. Gray color, cool in contrast with warm, pinkish gray of clouds. No spectral reflection of light, no bright highlights. Definite suggestion of form. Movements rapid, darting in all directions within small area. Seemed to be moving in and out of cloud (this may have been because of semi-transparent characteristics). Must be some phenomena of light on clouds. Very weird. Movements did not seem to be result of wind. First impression - balloon, too rapid and random in movements. Too rapid and extreme in changes of shape."

b. Time Sighted - For five (5) to ten (10) minutes on 5 November 1950 at 1155 hours.

c. Manner of observation - Visual

Werid "amoeba-like" UFO seen near Oak Ridge.

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d. Location of observer - At the corner of [redacted] and [redacted], Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The object appeared to be near a mountain ridge about six (6) miles distant. The object was on a compass bearing of 305 degrees. The altitude of the object remained within a short distance above or below the ridge of the mountain. (Note: [redacted] stated that for the object to be as large as he described and to be six (6) miles distant its size would be comparable to a three (3) story building a half a block long).

e. Information on Subject - Mr. [redacted] has been employed as an illustrator at the NEPA Division, Fairchild Engine & Airplane Corporation, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, since 25 October 1949. He has a "Q", "H" and "Secret" clearance. [redacted] is married and is twenty-six (26) years of age. He has been an efficient, reliable employee and is highly regarded and recommended by the security officials at NEPA.

f. Weather and wind conditions - According to the Weather Bureau at Oak Ridge the temperature was 51 degrees and there was a nine (9) to twelve (12) mile an hour West wind. Visibility was unlimited.

g. Activity or condition which might account for the sighting - Unknown.

h. Physical Evidence - None

i. Interception or identification action taken - None

3. ACTION: No investigation being made at this time.

1 Incl:
Sketch of objects (3)

PATRICK W. HAYES
Lt. Colonel, USAF
District Commander

cc: Hq. AMC
ATTN: MCIS

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
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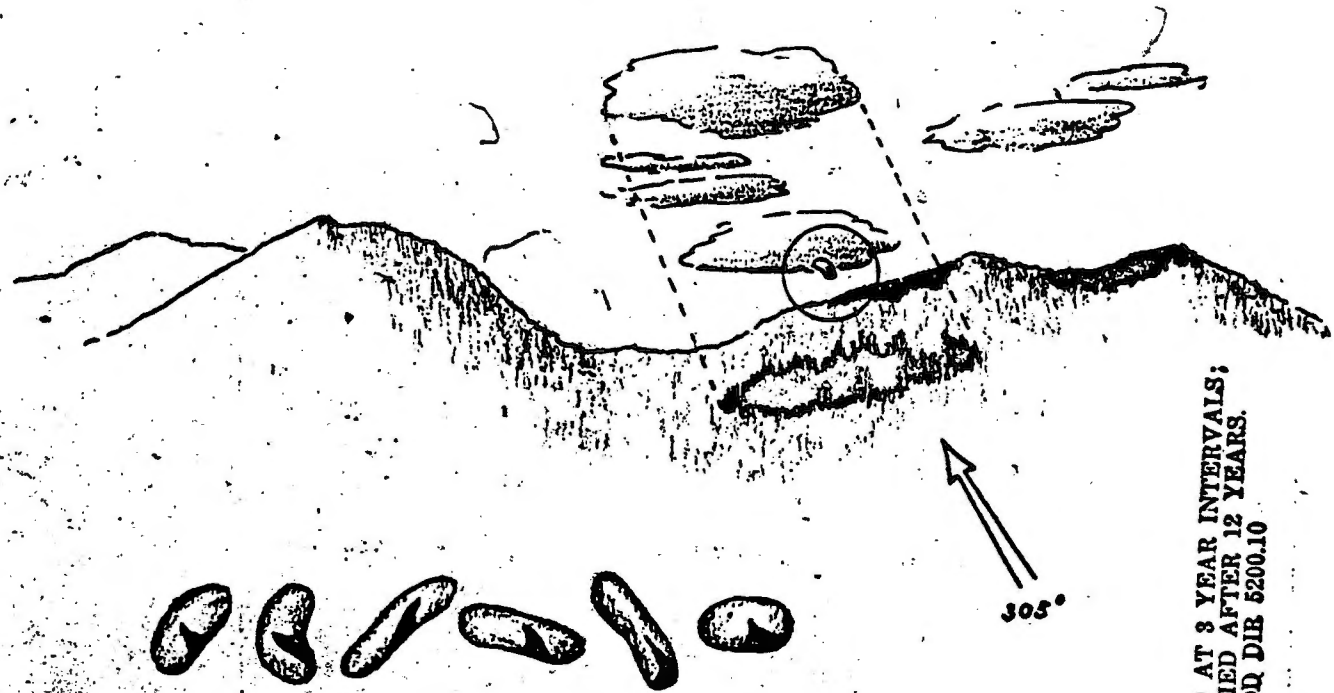

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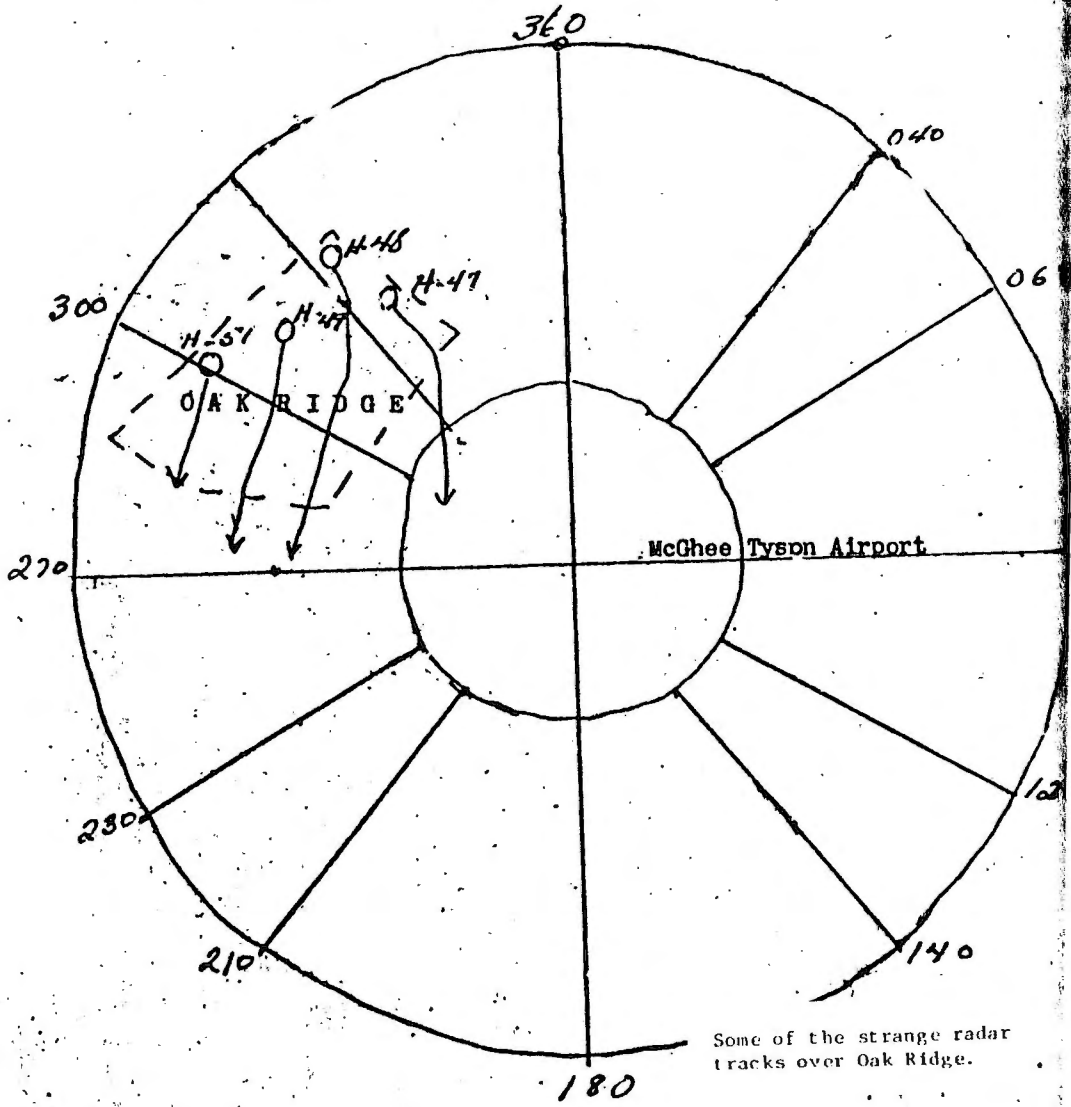
DOD DIR 5200.10

AF247029

These objects appeared to be A/C small, traveling between 100 - 125 mph. AEC was notified but their guards didn't see a thing. 2339 E.S.T. our fighter was airborned to intercept H-48. Pass directly over one target. Pilot could spot a thing. These targets appearing along the N.W. corner. One at a time Some were very strong echoes. Tracked from 15 to 20 minutes.

Boundary of Restricted Flying
Zone over Oak Ridge, Tennessee



Some of the strange radar tracks over Oak Ridge.